

THE TIMES

Tomorrow

If music...
Bernard Levin suffers assault at the hands of Anton Weber - and hits back.

Be the food...
Eat, drink - and lay a beautiful table. Sir Roy Strong considers the ergonomics and other adornments.



Of love...
Sir John Summerson reflects on the architecture of the Thirties and wonders why some people love it so much.

Play on...
Why London is swinging again.

Give me...
The beauty of California and the romance of Hawaii.

Excess
Attempts to outlaw video nasties are welcome, but parliamentarians should beware of going too far.

Lawson is foiled on power price

Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, has again failed to secure a 3 per cent rise in the price of electricity. The Cabinet decided not to take legal powers to direct the Electricity Council to increase prices, but a 2 per cent rise is likely

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Pound rises

Sterling rose to 1.4225 against the dollar, up 55 points, as West Germany's central bank again intervened heavily on foreign exchange markets

Page 17

Nanny demand

The prosecution at the Italian trial of the Scottish nanny, Carol Compton, demanded a seven-year jail term for arson and attempted murder

Page 7



Time please

Managers employed by a Grand Metropolitan subsidiary will strike today and shut 280 pubs in the North. The action could spread over Christmas and New Year

Page 3

Hard to swallow

Mr Edwin Meese, the White House counsellor, has caused a political storm by making derogatory remarks about America's hungry

Page 8

£170m bid

Hanson Trust last night launched a £170m cash takeover bid for London Brick, Britain's sole maker of flue-tile house bricks.

Letter page 15
Letters: On Antarctica, from Mr Julian Amery, MP; nuclear winter, from Dr Norman Myers, and Professor Sir Frederick Warner; arts subsidies, from Mr Robert Jackson, MP. Leading articles: European budget, censorship in time of war, glue sniffing. Features, pages 12-14.

Conveyancing

why the solicitors must put their house in order. Roger Boyes describes Lech Walesa's plans to infinite Poland's future. The cranes that keep flying into trouble. Spectrum: the Connery code. Friday Page: Shakespearean struggles. Obituary, page 16.

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Obituary,

Jenkin questions value of local democracy in leaked note to Cabinet

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, is questioning the value of local democracy as part of his sustained campaign to curb the powers of high-spending councils.

Opposition to next week's Bill on rate-capping when he says: "Local democratic freedom and choice is being replaced by bureaucratic dictatorship."

Mr Jenkin's memorandum makes no pretence about the Government's attitude to local democracy. It says: "Ours is a unitary and not a federal state. All the local powers of local authorities, including the power to raise rates, are derived from Parliament. Local mandates cannot set aside national policies."

It also says that the Government has a right to demand a response from local authorities to its programme for national economic recovery. "Where that response is not forthcoming, the Government has no alternative but to act through Parliament to safeguard the policies on which it was elected."

County councils chosen for abolition by ministers claimed yesterday that the latest Government grants had set them difficult targets which were meant to justify subsequent Conservative charges of overspending (Our Local Government Correspondent wrote).

It also became clear that a complicated loophole had allowed some smaller authorities, mostly Conservative, to emerge with more scope for spending than had been expected.

Mr Roy Thwaites, Labour leader of South Yorkshire county council, said last night: "This does actually imply that for a small price you can get rid of local democracy."

In the last financial year, only 48 per cent of local authorities' net revenue expenditure was met by ratepayers and "only 22 per cent of net rate fund revenue expenditure is financed by domestic rates", before rebates".

The memorandum concludes: "Only about 35 per cent of those eligible to vote in local elections pay full rates."

"Thirty per cent of domestic ratepayers are eligible for full or partial rebates."

Dr John Cunningham, the shadow spokesman who released details of the leaked document, said last night: "This does actually imply that for a small price you can get rid of local democracy."

In a note to be delivered to all Labour MPs today, Dr Cunningham sets the theme for the

Rotarian Tendency girds loins for rate-cap battle

By Our Political Correspondent

A joint meeting of the Conservative backbench constitutional and environmental committees on Wednesday night was reported yesterday to have shown distaste and discomfort at the prospect and the meeting was said to have been "somewhat moist", but opposition to Mr Jenkin's proposals is also attracting some "dry" reinforcement particularly from the new backbench intake.

It is understood that new Conservative MPs have made their way to Parliament through local government and that their lobbying on its behalf has reinforced a force to be reckoned with. One source said last night that they were being described as the Rotarian Tendency.

Brittan studies ban on solvent kits

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Government has decided against legislation to make solvent abuse by individuals an offence. But ministers are considering whether to make the selling of kits intended for it a crime in England and Wales.

The police and magistrates are among those consulted by the Government. They preferred the provision of expert help and prevention to the making of new offences.

Police are to be reminded of existing powers that can be used. The Government is relying on a drive involving health, education, and local government bodies, with shopkeepers against abuse.

In the Glasgow trial which resulted on Monday in the conviction of two men for selling glue-sniffing kits, the charge was based on Scottish common law, which is more far reaching than English law in that respect.

But Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, in a parliamentary written answer said he was examining the outcome of

Leading article, page 15

Injunction silences royal butler

By Alan Hamilton

Solicitors acting on behalf of Princess Anne have obtained an interim injunction in the High Court restraining the Princess's former butler, Mr Andrew Lightwood, from disclosing details about his royal employment.

There are several thousand products freely on sale which, if sniffed and inhaled, can cause injury, and even death. Specific laws against those indulging in solvent abuse would be difficult to frame and enforce.

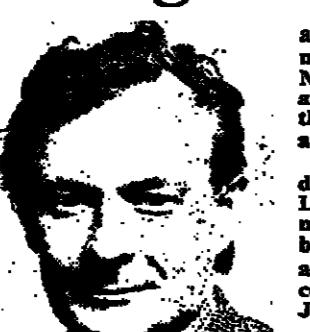
The Government has no official knowledge of any kits on sale in England and Wales.

● Khalid Raja and Ahmed Raja, the Glasgow shopkeepers, have lodged appeals against their three-year sentences for selling glue-sniffing kits to children, imposed by the High Court in Glasgow (our Glasgow Correspondent writes).

Leading article, page 15

The day sex tangle MP's troubles began

By Ronald Faux



Mr Gerald Birmingham: Political career in crisis.

signed as senior partner in Irwin, Mitchell and Co, a prominent firm of solicitors in Sheffield. His second wife, Judith, is also a solicitor.

His troubles began when Miss Ruth Harrison, aged 39, his former political assistant, complained that after she became Mr Birmingham's lover he had exploited and manipulated her for a month of no confidence being put before an emergency meeting of the constituency management committee of the St Helens South Labour Party.

At a national level, no pressure has been put on Mr Birmingham to resign – party leaders saying that he should stay in the seat and carry on drawing his MP's salary while he sorts out his private life.

Uppermost in the minds of party officials in London was the threat of a by-election and a Social Democratic Party onslaught on the St Helens seat spearheaded by Mrs Shirley Williams, who had held the neighbouring Merseyside seat at Crosby.

Mr Birmingham, who has been married twice, has re-

signed as senior partner in Irwin, Mitchell and Co, a prominent firm of solicitors in Sheffield. His second wife, Judith, is also a solicitor.

His troubles began when

Miss Ruth Harrison, aged 39,

his former political assistant,

complained that after she

became Mr Birmingham's

lover he had exploited and

manipulated her and falsely

promised that he would leave his wife and marry her.

Hardly had these accusations been made public when it was disclosed that Miss Janet Ball, aged 24, a nursing

assistant who met Mr Birmingham in the People's March for Jobs in May, was also having a relationship with the MP. Miss Ball is expecting a baby next month.

Miss Harrison said yesterday that she complained to the Law Society about Mr Birmingham's treatment of her because she felt he had taken advantage of her after she consulted him professionally in July, 1980.

She was a single parent

bringing up one son who was at that time nearly 13 years old," she said.

Various difficulties with her son had come to a head and she was extremely upset and distressed. She sought legal advice and approached Mr Birmingham, who as well as being a solicitor was then Labour councillor on the Sheffield Education Committee.

He appeared to be very

supportive and understanding,

Miss Harrison said. He found

a place at boarding school for her son and care proceedings were averted. The sexual relationship began two months after the first meeting and the affair went on for three years.

Ready for 1984



Finishing touches being applied before George Orwell's wax figure with Big Brother special effects is unveiled at the Madame Tussaud's exhibition in London next Wednesday. Tim Sale, the hair and colouring artist, has added the hair strand by strand (Photograph: Bill Warhurst)

Foetuses 'used in cosmetic research'

By Thomson Prentice
Medical Reporter

Allegations that experiments are carried out in some European countries on live human foetuses for such reasons as cosmetics research cannot be investigated by a committee of the European Parliament.

The British Medical Association is demanding evidence to substantiate claims made in a report submitted to the committee on energy, research, and technology in Brussels. The report says that foetuses and embryonic tissue are traded among countries within and outside the EEC.

No countries are mentioned by name in the report, *A Draft Opinion on Experiments on Live Human Embryos*. It was instigated by a group of European MPs, led by Herr Otto Habsburg, of Germany.

The report says: "The use made of live and dead human foetuses has assumed such proportions that this phenomenon must be examined, bearing in mind the clandestine nature of such practices".

According to the report, experiments are carried out on foetuses between 12 and 21 weeks old which are removed whole and live, then dissected to remove certain organs which are then frozen."

Boy faces Thatcher bomb charges

A north London schoolboy aged 14 who told Scotland Yard anti-terrorist branch detectives that he learnt of bomb making in his class was accused at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of sending an explosive packet to Mrs Margaret Thatcher at 10 Downing Street.

Mrs Barbara Mills, for the prosecution, said that the postal service at Islington, who became suspicious of the package because of the childlike writing on it, alerted the police, and explosives experts defused the packet.

The boy, from Tonbridge, pleaded not guilty to three charges of making an explosive device and sending it through the post to Mrs Thatcher.

The boy had told the police that he had done it to draw attention to himself and for a joke.

The trial was adjourned until today.

Falklands team set up

The Rowntree and Cadbury trusts are to fund a new forum of politicians, academics, businessmen and churchmen which was set up yesterday to promote a peaceful solution to the Falklands dispute.

A total of £15,000 is to be given to the new South Atlantic Council, £5,000 each from the Joseph Rowntree Memorial Trust, the Rowntree Charitable Trust and the Cadbury Trust.

The council has been established mainly by Mr Cyril Townsend, Conservative MP for Bexleyheath, and Mr George Foulkes, Labour MP for Carkrock, Cumnock and Doon Valley.

Straw burning controls drafted

Strict new controls on straw burning are contained in draft proposals by the Home Office to be sent to local authorities next month.

They include a limit on the area that can be burnt at any one time of six hectares (about 15 acres); firebreaks at least 25 metres wide; the presence of two trained supervisors at every burning; and a requirement to till all ash into the soil within 36 hours.

Four on charity fraud charges

Four men appeared in court yesterday accused of conspiracy to obtain money by deception from the charity Children with Cancer.

Three company directors, Mr Alan Clements, aged 45, a former trustee of the charity, Mr Adrian Roman, aged 33, of Waterton House, and Mr Robert Parfitt, aged 51, of Eldred Road, Bexleyheath, and an un-named trustee of Streatham Road, Kent, were charged with the offence of conspiracy to obtain money by deception. The four were remanded in custody.

Body identified

Murder squad detectives will reveal today the name of the young woman found strangled on the Duke of Marlborough's estate at Stonesfield, Oxfordshire who is believed to be a Finnish tourist aged 23.

Explosion charges

Two youths aged 16 and another aged 17 are to appear before Oxford magistrates today charged with causing criminal damage with intent to endanger life after the explosion which damaged a telephone kiosk in the city on Tuesday.

Social workers may end homes action

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

An end to the action, which has affected local authority homes for children in care and the elderly for the past three months was in sight last night as residential social workers belonging to the National and Local Government Association (Nalgo) voted to maximize profits would not take legal powers to direct the Electricity Council.

But it was agreed that Mr Walker would not press Mr Jones too hard, but that the council might agree to an increase of up to 2 per cent in domestic prices during the next 12 months, with no increase for industry.

But it was also clear that the Electricity Council will resist any increase in the price to industry, where it hopes to increase sales. A spokesman said every effort would be made to keep down prices as long as possible.

No further squeeze was put on the electricity industry. The figure of £740m in loan repayments during 1984-85 was confirmed, as was the requirement of a 1.4 per cent annual return on average total net assets.

Treasury ministers said they were satisfied that there would be price increases well below the expected rate of inflation next year, and that the principle of what they call economic pricing, with prices rising in line with costs, had been upheld.

Mr Walker's fiercer colleagues have for weeks proved unwilling to accept that he cannot bend the Electricity Council to his will, given that he appoints and can dismiss its members.

They suspect and perhaps with reason, that he subscribes to the principle which most of them have at some time voiced, that nationalized industries should be set financial targets and then allowed the fullest commercial freedom with the least interference.

The headline said "Baby was blinded by dad". There was also a picture of the accused father.

Miss Eily Goodall, representing *The Sun*, told the judge the paper took the complaint seriously and did not think it was contempt.

If it was regarded as a contempt, the newspaper was extremely sorry.

Paper called to court

A front page headline and picture in an edition of *The Sun* on Wednesday is to be referred to the Attorney General. The paper's legal representatives were ordered to appear before Mr Justice Drake at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday.

The headline concerned the case being heard at the court of a couple accused of ill-treating their baby daughter.

Since September 12 the residential social workers have been banning overtime and admissions to local authority homes for the elderly, children and disabled.

Both Nalgo's local government committee and strike committee are recommending an end to the action and acceptance of the peace formula devised by the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

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Kidnap brothers convicted of holding couple in terror for £2m ransom

Two brothers were found guilty at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of kidnapping a young couple and holding them captive for a £2m ransom.

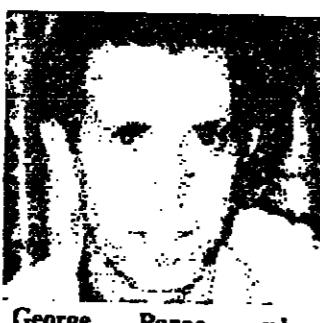
George Panay, aged 30, a driving instructor, of Telford Avenue, Streatham, and his brother Anastasi, aged 36, a fish shop proprietor, of Dunston Road, Battersea, both south London, will be sentenced today.

They were convicted of kidnapping Mr Emmanuel Xuerb, aged 33, a wine merchant, and his wife Maria, 25, from their home at Treesway, Lodge Road, Bromley, Kent, in January, and holding them prisoner for five days at a house in Kemble Road, Croydon.

The brothers were found guilty by the jury's unanimous verdicts after a month-long trial. Both had denied all charges.

A third member of the gang, Donald Gray, aged 27, unemployed, a former boxer, of Raleigh Gardens, Brixton, south London, who pleaded guilty and gave evidence for the Crown, also awaits sentence.

Mr and Mrs Xuerb were kidnapped as they arrived home after a shopping trip and were taken to the Croydon house



George Panay, who demanded £2m ransom

where they were held prisoner, bound, gagged and blindfolded.

They were threatened with death while the gang demanded £2m in cash, gold coins and gold bars from the husband's father, Mr Anthony Xuerb, 60, a Hatton Garden diamond merchant.

The kidnappers threatened to cut off Mr Emmanuel Xuerb's fingers and send them to his father one by one until the ransom was paid and threatened also to cut off his head and "send it home in a box."

Mrs Xuerb was also sexually assaulted by one of the kidnappers.

Mrs Xuerb was released alone with a ransom note. She remembered some details about the house's location and was

able to locate the address for police, who later stormed the house at dawn. The police had been alerted to the kidnapping and had recorded the calls to Mr Anthony Xuerb.

Mrs Xuerb had determined to do all she could to trap the gang by identifying the kidnap house.

With her bound hands she clawed at the carpet to force the fibres under her nails. Mrs Xuerb hoped that if they were eventually killed the fibres would assist forensic experts and police to trace the kidnappers. She also bit off some of her nails and left them under her mattress as further clues.

As she sat helpless, and blindfolded, her husband held captive in another room, she listened to nearby church bells and guessed their distance. She also gauged the direction of trains running close to the house and managed under her blindfold to catch a glimpse of the grey curtains.

When she was released to exert more pressure for the kidnappers' demands she assessed the distance the car travelled and memorised every left and right turn. Her recollection of the details enabled Anti-Terrorist Squad men to locate the house within 12 hours.



Kidnap victims: Mr and Mrs Xuerb, who were held under threat of death (Photograph: Brian Harris)

Shoplifting WPC fought to escape

Woman Police Constable Susan Hillier put up a struggle after being caught shoplifting and tried three times to escape from a store detective, magistrate in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, were told yesterday.

Mr James Cousey, for the prosecution, said Hillier had been on a shoplifting spree.

He said that despite being caught red-handed in Tesco's store, Cheltenham, where she was seen putting steaks and beef into a bag, Hillier protested her innocence to fellow officers.

Hillier, aged 31, of St George's Road, Cheltenham, admitted three charges of stealing food and clothes, worth a total of £35. She had been in the police force for 11 years, including two years as a detective. She resigned from the force on Tuesday.

Hillier was remanded until January 12 for reports.

Bobby Moore on drink charge

Bobby Moore, the former England football captain, was yesterday charged with a driving offence after a breath test conducted by Bedfordshire police. After a further test at Biggleswade police station, he was charged and bailed to appear in court at a date to be fixed.

Moore, who retired as a player six years ago, and who led England to the World Cup victory in 1966, was appointed chief executive of Southend United in the summer.

Arafat to stand for rector post

Mr Yassir Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, has agreed to stand as a candidate for rector of Glasgow University next March. Mr Abdul Ibrahim, president of the university's Palestine Action Society, who has campaigned for Mr Arafat's candidacy says that the election campaign will promote the cause of the Palestinian people as part of the negotiated peace in the Middle East.

Quigley remand on bomb charge

Thomas Quigley, aged 28, of Glenstaline Road, Belfast, was yesterday remanded in custody for a week at Lambeth Magistrates' Court, south London, accused of conspiring with others to cause explosions likely to endanger life or damage property.

The hearing lasted two minutes.

Shots fired in BR robbery

Masked men fired shots when they held up a security vehicle at Hoo Junction, Lower Shorne, near Gravesend, Kent, yesterday and stole £150,000 worth of British Rail wages.

British Rail staff gave chase in a car but eventually lost the raiders' van, which was later found abandoned at Strood, near Rochester.

Scots arrest

Mr Ian Howell, aged 28, who was being sought for questioning about the death of Jennifer Wright, whose body was found in a hostel in Oxford last week, was arrested near Inverness late on Wednesday.

Christmas lights

Mrs Mary Scouney, aged 76, switched a thousand Christmas lights on yesterday at her home and garden in Nene Parade, at March, Cambridgeshire, where the centrepiece is a 30ft high tree.

Valve error caused Sellafield leak

By Ronald Faux

Mr Con Allday, chairman and chief executive of British Nuclear Fuels, admitted yesterday that a misunderstanding between shift managers led to the discharge of a radioactive slick into the Irish Sea five weeks ago.

The incident caused contamination to the beach near the Sellafield formerly Windscale reprocessing plant on the Cumbria coast.

At a press conference at Sellafield Mr Allday said that a valve was turned because a manager had not read a record made in the log book three days earlier. He did not know that high-level radioactivity had not been removed from water in a tank.

The error was a genuine misunderstanding. Mr Allday said although it should not have happened he was satisfied that the people involved had acted

BBC shelves plan for pay-TV

By David Hewson and Bill Johnstone

The BBC put its satellite broadcasting plans on ice yesterday after deciding that its proposals for a launch in 1986 of a pay television service were unviable.

The decision, at a meeting of the governors, does not rule out the corporation's involvement in later satellite projects, but appears to shelve immediate plans for a two-channel service showing films and entertainment programmes.

Broadcasting House statement said: "The board recognized the great difficulties which remain to be overcome by the BBC, industry and others in establishing a viable DBS (direct broadcasting by satellite) service, but concluded that the BBC should continue to explore all possibilities which will lead to the setting up of a British DBS system."

United Satellites the prospective manufacturers of the BBC

Threat of holiday pub strikes

By Richard Evans

An unprecedented strike which will shut 280 public houses in northern England today could spread throughout Britain during the Christmas and new year festivities.

The management of Unisat, a consortium of British Aerospace, British Telecom and GEC-Marconi, is nervous about saying anything which might jeopardize the contract. Mr Daniel Grunberg, managing director, said he was disappointed that no contract has been signed.

He said: "I would like them to have signed a long time ago. We recognize all the profound issues that are at stake. The complexities are quite astonishing."

Studies by the BBC on consumer response to the satellite service concluded that 200,000 subscribers would be the minimum needed for launch.

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Universities will try to curb rowdy students

By Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent

University vice-chancellors sought to reassure Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, at a private meeting this week that they would do all they could to control rowdy students on campuses and to trace the kidnappers.

They exchange on the subject of free speech in universities arose at the routine autumn term meeting between the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals and the Minister at Sir Keith's insistence.

He is understood to be distressed by what he calls "barbarism" on the campuses, such as the recent paint-throwing at Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, at Manchester University and the violent picketing of himself at Warwick.

Manchester University was not informed officially of Mr Heseltine's visit, which took place the day after the announcement that cruise missiles had arrived on British soil, and was supposed to be an informal address to the Conservative Society.

Mr Heseltine was barracked by a large group of students who prevented him from speaking for an hour by blocking a staircase and then heckled him.

The Warwick University incident was more organized. Knowing beforehand that Sir Keith was coming, the students' union executive proposed a picket to protest at government cuts of the education service.

One in four motorists drinks and drives

By Michael Bally
Transport Editor

At least one in four motorists drinks and drives; and between the ages of 18 and 34 the proportion is as high as one in three.

That finding, from extensive soundings by Harris Research in London and Nottingham, coincides with yesterday's report in *The Times* that one in four drivers tested for alcohol in a pre-Christmas exercise by Sussex police failed the test.

It will be discussed at 10.30pm today in a London Weekend Television programme, "Driving Drunk in London", which commissioned the research.

Questioned by pollsters, 37 per cent of London motorists (48 per cent of those aged between 25 and 34) admitted that they drank and drove occasionally or often. Half of those questioned thought it unlikely that they would be caught.

Road safety experts say that motorists' perception of their chance of being caught is crucial in determining whether they drink and drive. And the research suggests that this is far lower in London than in Nottingham.

Drivers in Nottingham are five times more likely to be breath-tested than in London, according to Home Office figures. Last year the Metropolitan Police carried out 3.3 tests for every 1,000 Londoners. The national average is 4.2, and the police in Nottinghamshire carried out 15.8 to top the national league.

Video editors' 'high' pay

By David Hewson

The highest paid company director at LWT in 1982 received £54,299. In the same year 233 workers received between £20,000 and £25,000; 113, £25,000 to £30,000; 19, £30,000 to £35,000; eight, £35,000 to £40,000; 17, £40,000 to £45,000 and three received £55,000 to £60,000.

LWT denied that the videotape recorder team shift leader who earned more than £100,000 last year received such high wages because of a local agreement. It said that the payments resulted from a national ITV agreement, though it is understood that no other ITV company has video editors who regularly earn more than £50,000 a year.



Retreat in time for two Royal Green Jackets.

In the steps of Sir John

Eight men from the 1st Battalion The Royal Green Jackets will spend their Christmas leave in nineteenth-century uniform, retracing the steps of Sir John Moore's retreat to Corunna in 1808.

The men, led by Captain Charles Blackmore, will leave Sagarena, south-east of Leon, on Christmas Eve and march to

Arab cash for Chelsea footballers

By John Lawless

Chelsea Football Club yesterday became the first British club to be sponsored by an Arab backer when Gulf Air announced that it is to inject "a considerable sum" into the second division promotion challenges.

Gulf Air is thought to be paying £150,000 to have its name on the Chelsea shirts for just the remaining half of this season.

Mr Ken Bates, the club chairman, said that it would represent the most lucrative deal in football sponsorship if it is carried through to next season, which may depend on whether Chelsea does indeed climb back to the first division.

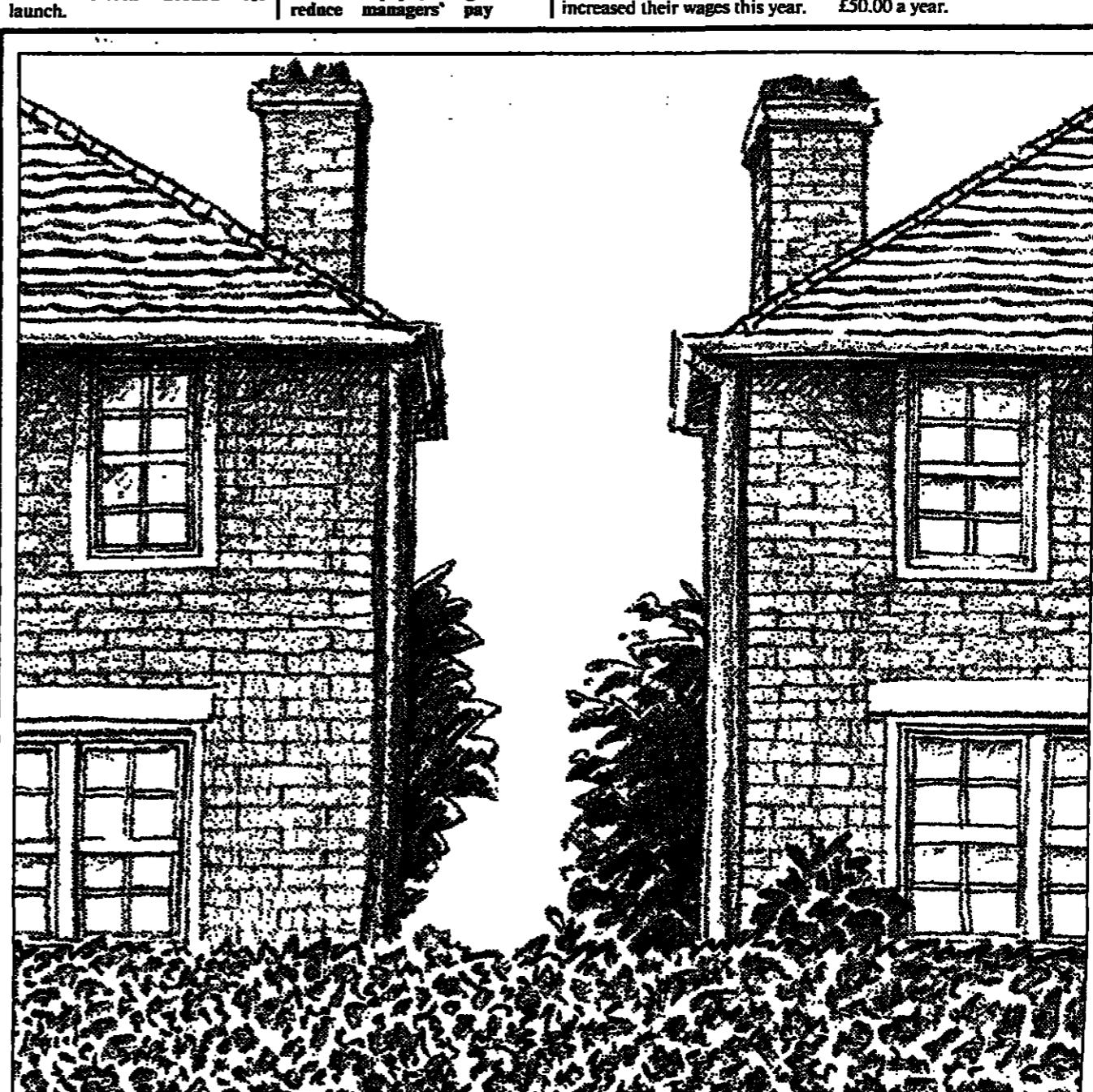
British football supporters have only just got used to their game being propped up by cash from Japanese corporations, with Canon sponsoring the League and JVC backing Arsenal.

But the Chelsea coup, celebrated at the Stamford Bridge ground, with coffee and dates in honour of their teetotal guests, is unique.

The contract calls for Chelsea to send its coaching specialists to the four states, which own the airline Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. "And the most promising players will come back to Chelsea to train and, hopefully, to play in the British league," Mr Bates said.

The prospects are favourable for Chelsea getting a renewal of the deal next year. The club is second in the second division, and Gulf Air was one of the world's few airline profit-makers last year, making \$39m.

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Which house with central heating is saving £100 a year?

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To: Energy Efficiency Office, P.O. Box 702, London SW20 8SZ. Please send a free copy of 'Make the most of your heating.'

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY OFFICE

PARLIAMENT December 15 1983

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

Mr Len Murray's victory has a significance that goes well beyond the NGA and the newspaper industry. It confirms the trend that became evident at the TUC in Blackpool in September towards moderation and a greater emphasis on the industrial role of the unions in the leadership of the movement. This is an approach that requires fewer political gestures, fewer strikes on principle and a greater readiness to calculate the odds before acting.

The odds in this instance were that the NGA was unlikely to win, that the trade union movement as a whole could not be mobilized in its support, and that to back the NGA in unlawful action would expose the TUC both financially and politically. In its new hard-headed mood the general council was prepared to draw these conclusions before committing itself to action.

It is a mood that reinforces and has been reinforced by Mr Murray's more assertive leadership. For years now he has distinctly cautious. Now the NGA feels sure of support; he is taking a more positive line that gives point and coherence to trends that might otherwise not be expressed in consistent decisions. He embodies the new mood.

No assurance of industrial peace

It does not offer an assurance of industrial peace. My guess is that when the moderate leaders do get into a dispute they will be determined to prove that they are no pushover. But they will be reluctant to give TUC backing to futile, self-destructive strikes. That in itself should be development of no small importance.

But there are broader conclusions to be drawn from this episode. It means that the Government's industrial regulations legislation will be enforced. The unions will seek to persuade the Government to modify its new proposals. They will hope that a future government will repeal the Thatcher legislation. But they will not be able to prevent its being put into effect during the life of this Government.

The legislation endures beyond that will depend upon whether it becomes part of what Sir Keith Joseph has termed "the common ground" - which, in other words, it becomes so generally accepted by the country at large that no administration would dare to discard it.

As members of the Government, ministers have every reason to be pleased that the unions will not be able to block the implementation of the industrial relations laws. But as Conservative politicians they may have rather more cause for concern. The unions will know that the only way to get rid of the legislation will be to get rid of the Government, which may induce them to give more wholehearted support to the Labour Party than they might otherwise have done.

Opting for more limited role

The unions are now opting for a more limited role than the one they have aspired to previously. So long as the present trend continues there will be no nonsense about seeking to make and break governments. The tendency will be for union leaders to concentrate on getting the best that they can for their members on the basis of existing laws by dealing with whatever party is elected to office.

The more limited role should be popular, or at least less unpopular, with the public. It accords with the general idea of what unions are there for. It should also lead to fewer of those excesses which have done so much to bring the trade union movement a bad name in recent years. If this is so, it will be good for the economic and social life of the country. It would also suggest that the unions might become less of a bogey, and the association with them might become rather less of a handicap for the Labour Party.

But while the trend is towards moderation at the top of the union movement, it would be foolish to suppose that the militants have melted away. There are a number of important unions which remain under hardline control or at least very much subject to hardline influence. If that continues, and there is no evidence that it will, the prospect will be for a greater polarization between moderate and militant unions.

The majority of unions may be becoming more realistic, but will it still be possible to think of a single, reasonably cohesive union movement?

Action, if need be, over rebate

EEC BUDGET

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during question time in the Commons that she was greatly disappointed by the vote in the European Parliament. So far, the Community is not in default with Britain. This time last year the Parliament rejected a budget containing United Kingdom refunds nevertheless were in the end paid by the end of March.

Mr Kinnock: All that means is that we are 12 months nearer crisis without resolving it. The condemnation and disappointment from the Prime Minister is nothing more than huffing and puffing. (Conservative laughter).

Lack of decisive action will simply be read as further equivocation by her on this issue. Why is she so resolved to be irresolute? Why is she so wet on this subject?

Mr Kinnock said: in view of the provocative and prejudiced action of the European Parliament, will the Prime Minister now withhold the

£475m from our contribution in lieu of the rebate which is rightfully belonging to the British people. (Labour cheers).

Mrs Thatcher: Like him, I was greatly disappointed by the vote in the European Parliament. So far, the Community is not in default with Britain. This time last year the Parliament rejected a budget containing United Kingdom refunds nevertheless were in the end paid by the end of March.

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Mr Kinnock said: in view of the provocative and prejudiced action of the European Parliament, will the Prime Minister now withhold the

postponed until it is clear what we are going to vote for?

Mrs Thatcher: Such a proposal would be far from welcome and I am not sure whether it would be welcome in this House to postpone that election.

Mr Kinnock: He has repeatedly shown I cannot believe in huffing and puffing (Conservative cheers). This time last year the European Assembly passed a similar resolution. Nevertheless, we got our full rebate this time. It is, therefore, possible that we may get our full rebate on time.

If not, we shall have to take action to safeguard our position. I hope that will not be necessary, but if it were we would have to take it.

Mr Hogg Fraser (Stafford, C): At this time of good will, will the Prime Minister suggest to her colleagues, heads of state and prime ministers, that in view of the problems of the EEC, next year's elections should be

written reply.

£3.7m to police Greenham

It has cost the Thames Valley Police authority about £3,700,000 to police Greenham Common airbase. Mr Douglas Hard, Minister of State, Home Office, said in a Commons

Murray's action praised

NGA DISPUTE

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during question time that she welcomed the courageous action of the Graphical Society of the TUC (Mr Len Murray) and those who supported him in deciding not to contravene the Employment Act.

She had been asked by Mr Timothy Smith (Beaconsfield, C). Has she noted the contrast between the responsible line taken by Mr Len Murray and the majority of the TUC general council on the issue of the Graphical Society's strike statement in support of the National Graphical Association issued by the Campaign Group of Labour MPs, one of whom is Mr Michael Meacher (Oldham West), a member of the Shadow Cabinet? What conclusions does she draw from this?

Mrs Thatcher: I hope those MPs will unequivocally support the decision of the general council of the TUC.

Trade union leaders who opposed personal freedom should not be rewarded, Mr Alan Cockerell (London, C) said later.

Mrs Thatcher: He will know that many will stand up for personal freedom and have upheld the law. It would be as well if we did not in this House go into questions about honours.

Next week's business

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be:

Monday: Motion for the Christmas adjournment. Proceeding on the Consolidated Fund Bill.

Tuesday: Health and Social Security Bill, second reading.

Wednesday: Housing and Building Control Bill, remaining stages.

Thursday: Christmas adjournment debates.

Friday: Business in the House of Lords will be:

Monday: Cable and Broadcasting Bill, second reading.

Tuesday: Roads (Scotland) Bill, committee, Amusement Machines Bill, committee.

Wednesday: Coal Industry Bill, second reading. Repatriation of Prisoners Bill, second reading. Animal Health and Welfare Bill, second reading.

Bill will allow Stock Exchange to evolve

HOUSE OF LORDS

Changes in practices proposed by the Stock Exchange would enable it to operate in a freer, more competitive atmosphere and fully justified the Government's decision that litigation through the Restrictive Practices Court should not proceed. Lord Cockfield, speaking for the Government, said in the House of Lords when moving the second reading of the Restrictive Trade Practices (Stock Exchange) Bill.

The Bill exempts certain agreements relating to the Stock Exchange from the Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1976, and ends the court action. It is estimated the cost of the Bill will save £500,000 in public expenditure.

Lord Cockfield said the Government took the view that uncertainty over the Stock Exchange's future resulting in the long period before action could be resolved, was inhibiting the Stock Exchange from

responding to changing circumstances and opportunities.

The Stock Exchange had cooperated fully over the changes proposed which would allow it to evolve and change to meet the spirit of competition, particularly international competition.

Change is already evident (he said) and proceeding at a greater rate than many would have thought possible and that is all to the good.

The Government's decision that the masters should be dealt with by Acts of Parliament was fully justified. Law enforcement agencies must proceed under the law as it stood and responsibility for the law was with Parliament and not one else.

Lord Brabazon of Tara (C), a member of the Stock Exchange, in a maiden speech, said he was in favour of the Bill as he thought the majority of the members were. The rule book as it now existed was mainly to protect the public.

But (he said) it was very rarely interfered with the process of law once that process has got into operation.

There had been no mention of the

Minister criticizes gas and electricity campaigns

ADVERTISING

An advertising campaign between the gas and electricity industries was described in the House of Lords by The Earl of Avon, a Government spokesman.

He said it had been drawn to the attention of the industries and he believed that it would not happen again.

Lady Burros of Coventry (SDP) had asked whether it was correct that between July 1982 and June 1983 the nationalized gas and electricity industries spent £21,800,000 on advertising and promotion.

The result of the advertising ban was widely welcomed (she said) but consumers are in some confusion as to which is true of the various conflicting claims.

She recalled that in a statement on the NHS and pharmaceutical profits the Government announced a compulsory reduction in the amount spent on advertising and promotion. It should consider doing the same for these two equally nationalized industries.

The Earl of Avon replied that the figures for advertising were £22m for one industry and £23m for the other.

On this campaign (he went on) I would agree that we all deplore advertising which is a denigration of products. To the extent that this took place, I think it was unfortunate.

Lady Burros of Coventry said the

Bill, before the election, but it had come into being immediately afterwards. That meant either there had been a gross error of judgment in the first instance in referring the matter to the court or that there had been a complete volte face by the Lord Advocate.

What the Government was doing in the Bill was giving itself liberty to arrive at agreements with the Stock Exchange that might infringe the rules of free competition and monopoly.

It was a bad precedent. It gave some colour to the belief that there were two for the wrong who had more power behind them and another for the weak.

Younger has, over the years, established his reputation as an unscrupulous Scrooge and it is high time that he repented and reversed these unscrupulous policies.

Mr Younger said his generosity in grants had only been reflected in increased spending which had put a burden on ratepayers who had wanted spending reductions.

Mr Donald Stewart (Western Isles, SNP) said Mr Younger could talk until he was blue in the face but all

that he said was "My word is my bond".

If we have said (he added) that we will deliver the goods we will, I am sure.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter (C), said he was less happy about the Bill than any other which had been proposed during the session. It seemed to be contrary to the general philosophy of the Government because the emphasis which had previously been placed on competition and the operation of the law seemed to be little blurred by the proposals.

It was impossible to get away from the suggestion that it involved some interference in the operation of the law. He was puzzled as to why the action was being taken now when the reference to the court had been made five years ago.

Lord Cockfield, replying, said the Stock Exchange had progressively shown a greater willingness to adapt itself and abandon many of its restrictive practices.

The Bill was read a second time.

Wheel clamps

Between May 16, when the experimental wheel clamping scheme was introduced, and November 18, 22,450 vehicles were clamped and the gross revenue, up to November 18 was £431,418. Lord Elton, Under-Secretary of State, Home Office, told the House of Lords at question time.

The Earl of Avon asked if the amount spent on electricity advertising £2m was on energy efficiency and £1m on education.

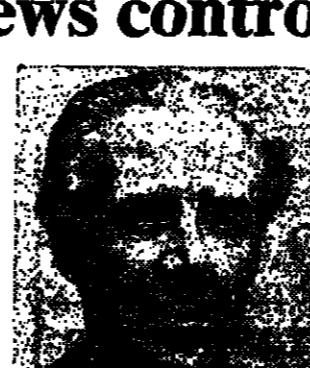
Censors would have to be stationed in cable offices and the licences for most long-distance radio transmitters revoked. The question of censoring mail, freight and material carried by travellers could be left to be decided at the time.

These are among the conclusions of a study group under the chairmanship of General Sir Hugh Beach, former Master-General of the Ordnance.

This group has spent most of this year trying to reconcile the demands of military security with those of the democratic right to have as much information as possible in an environment in which advanced electronics are making it increasingly difficult technically to control the dissemination of news.

The group, whose report, *The Protection of Military Information*, was published yesterday, was set up in February by

News control in war of electronics age



General Sir Hugh Beach (left) and Mr Heseltine: Balancing wartime security against the right to know

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, after widespread dissatisfaction in the media with the system of vetting reporters' copy during the Falklands conflict last year.

times "the onus must rest on government to determine what information needs to be protected."

"Censorship should seek only to prevent the untimely disclosure of information which would prejudice our own or allied operations and assist the enemy.... It should not be used politically as a fig-leaf to hide incompetence, poor judgment, tactical errors or indeed enemy successes."

It says the implications of the move to automation in communications systems have been serious for the protection of military information. "During the Second World War because of vital importance." At such

Prospects for developing a stable fishing industry

FISHERIES

The last piece of the common fisheries policy jigsaw was now in place and the Government was already in discussions about the 1984 total allowable catches, Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

With the Council for some fishing opportunities for the UK in Common waters and for salmon and eels in the area between six and 12 miles off the coast of Bridlington and processes.

Mr Michael Shaw (Scarborough, C):

He discusses the consequences of the

whole House in

of the whole House in

for the hard and constructive work

for the fishing industry in

possible to persuade the scientists to raise their estimates and, as a consequence of that pressure, this

has been increased to 215,000 tonnes. I am still not satisfied with that and that is why the Commission at my request have today begun discussions with Norway to raise that quota.

Mr John Townsend (Bridlington, C):

He is aware that as a result of

opening up the North Sea to herring

fishermen for the first time in living memory.

What efforts will be made to

make sure the French only fish for

and not damage the fixed gear of the

British fishermen?

Mr Jopling: The best thing is that

we ought to see how we get on and if

we start finding any evidence that

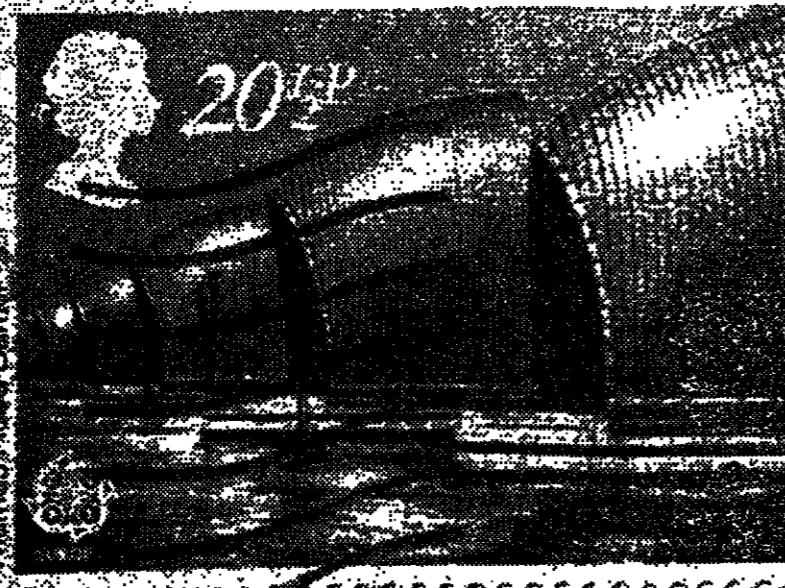
there are abuses of the rules in the

areas close to his constituency I

hope he will be able to discuss it



How many other companies can put their results on the outside of the envelope?



Trafalgar House have just announced another record year. Turnover up 33% to £1.4b. Profits up 20% to £79m. Dividends up 18% to £21m.

But this year, financial analysts have not been alone in anticipating such impressive results.

Philatelists also had more than an inkling of what was going to come.

Because in May the Post Office issued three special stamps under the title "British Engineering Achievements."

Two out of the three featured works in which Trafalgar House companies have been deeply involved.

Our Cleveland Bridge and Engineering Company and Redpath Dorman Long were members of the consortium responsible for the Humber Bridge, the longest single span bridge in the world.

And Cleveland also constructed and installed the gates and gate arms for the Thames Flood Barrier.

There were of course, several other significant Trafalgar House events this year which the Post Office has not yet celebrated in philatelic form.

For instance, the purchase of two new cruise ships, the Sagafjord and Vistafjord, which make Cunard's cruise fleet now the most luxurious in the world.

The acquisition of a significant stake in the Forties oil field from BP. The completion of the new Stoke Mandeville Hospital by Trollope & Colls. The Ankobra Bridge in Ghana. The Sultan Qaboos University in Oman.

Put together, our year might be the basis for a whole album of stamps. In fact, for twenty years, with almost monotonous regularity, good news has been coming through the letter boxes of Trafalgar House shareholders.

In 1964, our first Annual Report as a public company showed turnover of £446,000 and profits of £86,000.

Last year, Trafalgar House earned £500m in overseas sales alone.

You can find out exactly how we've built our business by getting us to send you a copy of our company report.

We will be posting them bearing some very particular stamps. After all, philately is the sincerest form of flattery.

For a copy of our 1983 Report and Accounts, contact The Secretary at 1 Berkeley Street, London W1X 6NN

Trafalgar House
PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY

Guardian is told to surrender cruise missiles document

The *Guardian* was ordered by a High Court judge in London yesterday to hand over a secret memorandum that could lead to the unmasking of a "mole" in the Government service. The surrender, however, is to be delayed until tonight to allow the newspaper time to appeal.

Judgment in the appeal is expected today. The *Guardian* assured the High Court, however, that it would obey the court's final order.

Mr Justice Scott rejected arguments by the newspaper's lawyer, Lord Rawlinson of Ewell, QC, that it was entitled to protect anonymous source under the Contempt of Court Act, 1981.

The memorandum, about the delivery of cruise missiles to Greenham Common, was published by the newspaper on October 31.

Nr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, and Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General, asked for the document back unredacted so that they could identify the source from markings on it.

The judge said that the newspaper did not contest that the Secretary of State and the Attorney General were the rightful owners of the document. It was also accepted that no damage will be, or has been, suffered by its publication.

The newspaper claimed that under the Contempt Act it would have to reveal its source

The Reyn-Bardt case

Why an ancient skull trapped a killer

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent
Voluntary bodies added yesterday to growing concern that the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill would allow confidential records and documents to be seized, despite Government undertakings.

The Law Society has already criticized loopholes leaving private legal, medical and journalistic material open to search and seizure.

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations has now urged Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, to revise the Bill at committee stage.

The council has written on behalf of a wide range of voluntary bodies worried that loopholes and ambiguities will give police access to the files.

Faced with that threat, the organizations say they will have to make a "harsh" choice. They could cease recording clients' personal details or withdraw guarantees that such information would be held in confidence.

Mr Nicholas Hinton, its director, says in the letter: "NCOVO and a number of other voluntary organizations would prefer to see a simpler procedure, giving clearer protection to the records of voluntary organizations whether held by paid staff or volunteers."

Alternatively, the council would like amendments to the Bill extending the scope of excluded material and protecting it from seizure.

The standing committee on the Bill yesterday approved Clause 4, which regulates police powers to mount road checks.

How to spot that short measure

By Tony Samstag
More than half of public houses may be serving short measures of spirits, a survey of hotels and bars in Merseyside has shown. Trading standards officers bought about 60 drinks and found that more than 35 of them were short-measured.

Although Merseyside County Council prosecuted 12 licensees, who were fined a total of more than £800, officers conceded that most of the violations were probably inadvertent.

Confusion generally arises with non-standard spirits, such as single malt whiskies, fine brandies and the like, which are not connected to Optic measures and therefore require the use of a thimble. Mr Peter Mawdsley, principal investigations officer for Merseyside, says bar staff are often not properly trained in the use of the thimble. "The thimble measure should be filled to the top, and if there is any spillage it should fall into the glass. Customers should insist on seeing their drink poured."

The most celebrated short-measure case recently, in which the official political line is one of broadening through the constitution and the criminal code the possibilities of free religious practice", Runcie said.

It was too early, he said in reply to a question, to tell whether full religious freedom existed. "Certainly I have seen evidence that there are more churches opened, more Bibles available, and I can only assume that is the result of less political pressure against such things."

Tests, which were completed in October, showed that the skull had belonged to a woman aged between 30 and 50 who had died in about AD 410 during the final years of the Roman occupation of Britain.

According to Dr John Gowlett, senior archaeologist at the Oxford radio-carbon unit, the remains of several heads of women from the Dark Ages have been found in peat bogs in various parts of northern Europe, particularly Denmark and Ireland.

In 1824 a similar skull was found in Lancashire. Another was found in Cumbria, also during the nineteenth century when peat was dug by hand.

Archaeologists believe that the heads, always of women, were buried either as part of some ritual or because they were guilty of some heinous crime.

After dating the skull, Dr Gowlett visited the spot where it was found and discovered that the ground was still very wet. Other research into local documents disclosed that a wooden track had run across the bog in ancient times.

Confronted with the discovery of the skull, Reyn-Bardt, who had previously denied



Marek Zwiefka-Sibley and Emma Lesiecka in London yesterday holding some of the 15,000 cards being sent to Polish refugee children in Austria (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

Christians get Peking protection

Herring quotas agreement rescues Europe's common fisheries policy

From Ian Murray, Brussels

"Blue Europe" is now complete. Fisheries ministers in Brussels have eventually sorted out a six-month wrangle over North Sea herring quotas, which means that the common fisheries policy, signed last January, can at last be made fully operational.

Mr Michael Jopling, the British minister, emerged extremely happy from the meeting when it ended in the middle of Wednesday night. The agreement, he said, was "a triumph for British fishermen". They had been allocated more herring than he had ever hoped for.

The agreement means that next year Britain is to be allowed to catch 24.15 per cent of the 155,000 tonnes of herring which scientific advice suggests would be the proper level to preserve stocks.

Mr Jopling pointed out that over the 16 years up to 1976, when herring fishing had to be banned to save it from extinction in the North Sea, Britain had averaged only 16.7 per cent of total catches.

Belgium is assured a minimum tonnage limit stock rise to above the 250,000 mark, when it would receive 1 per cent.

Agreement on herring quotas

is to last for 20 years, like the rest of the common fisheries policy. But falling stocks of cod and haddock, which make up 50 per cent of Britain's catch, mean that the industry could face a tough time next year.

The Commission wants to reduce the quotas for North Sea haddock by 18 per cent and the quotas for cod by 7 per cent next year. This would cost British fishermen something like £15 million over the year.

Though the films were to be shown to a restricted audience, they had to be censored under Singapore law. But what appalled Goethe Institute officials was that, instead of consulting about cuts, the ministry went ahead and made them, running one of the few copies of the film.

Some eighteen months ago Singapore appeared to be easing restrictions on avant-garde foreign films and leaving in risqué scenes where cuts would ruin the integrity of a production. Clearly, there has been a rethink, or ministry bureaucrats are aware of more liberal attitude.

It was a customs man who first spotted the offending Stones album, *Undercover*, with its picture of a naked woman. Soon a letter was on its way from the Controller of Undesirable Publications, pointing out that the cover was unsuitable for the Singapore market and saying distribution would not be permitted.

The distributors, anticipating this, have tried to persuade the Stones to use a less controversial cover for the local market, but to no avail.

No doubt chewing-gum will be smuggled in too, despite a television ban on gum advertising due in March.

"Personally I consider it rather obnoxious seeing very good-looking young boys and girls wandering around with their jaws moving like cows chewing their cud," Mr Sajipati Dhanabalan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and of Culture, said.

"From being a country that has become associated with cutting the long hair of men, we'll become associated with the banning of chewing-gum, which isn't something I'm particularly concerned about," said the minister, who claimed that Singapore spends more than £20,000 a year cleaning up the mess left by gum chewers.

Singapore has long since dispelled the notion that it is a "little dragon", an offshore representative office of Peking in a predominantly Malay stock area.

But if the political and economic comparisons do not apply, some of the cultural ones do: just as Peking is cleansing the country of foreign cultural pollution, so Singapore is strengthening its defences against undesirable extraneous foreign culture.

Pensive President Mitterrand, in a study by Konrad Maller, a West German photographer, in the garden of his house at Latche, south-west France.

Christmas gift for Rock

From Our Own Correspondent, Madrid

Coinciding with the first anniversary of Spain's partial relaxation of the frontier restrictions for Gibraltar, residents of the Rock from yesterday will be allowed during

the Christmas period to make as many trips as they wish to and from Spain in one day.

During the past 12 months the visits have been limited to one in any 24 hours.

With a Kenwood Gourmet you won't believe your Christmas pudding, your sausage rolls or your turkey stuffing either.

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You won't believe your mince pies!

Singapore leaves few Stones unturned

From David Wain, Singapore

While the rest of the world worries about unemployment and nuclear missiles, Singapore is concerned about the Rolling Stones and chewing-gum.

The Government has banned the latest Stones album and is thinking of doing the same to chewing-gum. Neither is likely to cause great cultural deprivation - the album is already seeping in on the black market anyway.

However, officials of the Goethe Institute are still gasping at what the men from the ministry did to film brought in for a German film festival.

A film of Günter Grass's *The Tin Drum* was so mangy by the time the Ministry of Culture censors had finished that it had to be thrown away.

Though the films were to be shown to a restricted audience, they had to be censored under Singapore law. But what appalled Goethe Institute officials was that, instead of consulting about cuts, the ministry went ahead and made them, running one of the few copies of the film.

Some eighteen months ago Singapore appeared to be easing restrictions on avant-garde foreign films and leaving in risqué scenes where cuts would ruin the integrity of a production. Clearly, there has been a rethink, or ministry bureaucrats are aware of more liberal attitude.

It was a customs man who first spotted the offending Stones album, *Undercover*, with its picture of a naked woman. Soon a letter was on its way from the Controller of Undesirable Publications, pointing out that the cover was unsuitable for the Singapore market and saying distribution would not be permitted.

The distributors, anticipating this, have tried to persuade the Stones to use a less controversial cover for the local market, but to no avail.

No doubt chewing-gum will be smuggled in too, despite a television ban on gum advertising due in March.

"Personally I consider it rather obnoxious seeing very good-looking young boys and girls wandering around with their jaws moving like cows chewing their cud," Mr Sajipati Dhanabalan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and of Culture, said.

"From being a country that has become associated with cutting the long hair of men, we'll become associated with the banning of chewing-gum, which isn't something I'm particularly concerned about," said the minister, who claimed that Singapore spends more than £20,000 a year cleaning up the mess left by gum chewers.

Singapore has long since dispelled the notion that it is a "little dragon", an offshore representative office of Peking in a predominantly Malay stock area.

But if the political and economic comparisons do not apply, some of the cultural ones do: just as Peking is cleansing the country of foreign cultural pollution, so Singapore is strengthening its defences against undesirable extraneous foreign culture.

Spain's 'right to education' Bill

Church and state battle over private schools

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

A long running controversy over state-financed education came to a climax this week, as the Spanish Parliament debated the so-called "right to education" Bill introduced by the Minister of Education, Señor Jose Maria Maravall.

Both socialists and militant Catholics are struggling for influence, while many ordinary parents and taxpayers that only want the best education for their children that state funding can provide.

The minister, who holds an Oxford doctorate in sociology, under attack for choosing to send his own children to Madrid's fee-paying British Institute. Opponents of the Bill charge that he wants to deprive other parents of their right to choose a religious education for their children.

They do not stop short of accusing the Socialist minister of attempting to abolish Spain's Catholic Church-run education altogether.

Spain is remarkable for having more than one third of its primary and secondary education run privately. Most private schools are in the hands of the Catholic Church, but receive state subsidies of up to 100 per cent.

The Church built up this almost unique position during the Franco period. In Zaragoza, for example, there were only two state grammar schools and more than 50 private secondary schools at the time of the dictator's death in 1975.

A majority of Spain's Catholic bishops, believing they enjoy the firm support of the Pope, are anxious to maintain their sway over educating the young in a country where almost everyone is nominally a Catholic.

Señor Maravall's Bill would replace the education law of 1979, introduced by the Centre Democrats, which gave the

Church generous funds for education with little supervision.

The minister hardly helped matters, however, when he addressed a Socialist teachers' congress last weekend and accused the entire private sector of being motivated only by the desire for economic gain.

Tonight the Catholic lay organizations are preparing their reply, urging millions of parents to demonstrate in the big cities and help to collect up to 10 million signatures for a petition against the Bill.

The right-wing Father Angel Sucres, chairman of the Feder-

ation of Private Education Establishments, who is locked in a power struggle with the Education Minister, claimed yesterday that the state had a constitutional obligation to finance his organization's schools regardless of the parliamentary debate.

What most angers owners of the privately-run schools is that supervision by the state would be coupled with new school councils, on which parents and staff could easily out-vote the proprietors and the headmasters both on administrative matters and the curriculum.

Atom tests damage not proved

From Tom Doherty, Melbourne
Society on Genetic Health
Australia

Opponents of atomic energy have long argued that radiation from nuclear weapons tests in the Pacific has caused genetic damage.

Now a report by the World Health Organization has found that the evidence for this is not strong enough to prove it.

The report, based on a review of 100 studies, found that the evidence for a link between radiation and genetic damage is "not strong enough to prove it".

Lebanon's President in London

Gemayel sounds warning about peace troops quitting too soon

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Hasty withdrawal of the multinational peace keeping force (MNF) from Beirut would have "very grave consequences" for the Middle East and for the world at large, President Gemayel of Lebanon said yesterday.

It would undermine the "promising" process reconciliation among his country's warring factions (which was begun at Geneva last month), he told a press conference in London. He was on an official visit, which ended yesterday.

President Gemayel hoped soon to announce the date and place for the next round of reconciliation talks, at which he would like to fix the terms of reference for a new "broad-based government of national unity".

But he would not confirm reports that negotiations will resume in Montreux, Switzerland, next week. That would have to wait until after a meeting in Damascus on Sunday between the foreign minis-

Journalists under US Marine fire

From Robert Fisk
Beirut

As if journalists did not have enough problems with the armed militias of Lebanon, an American television crew yesterday found itself under fire from US marines after its driver took a wrong turning into the marine compound at Beirut airport.

The driver was grazed in the head by a bullet and the reporter, Mr Joe Corcoran, from a National Broadcasting Company affiliate in North Carolina, was hurt by broken glass when the marine guards shot at their car.

It was a sign of just how nervous the Marines have become in Beirut - and just how dangerous the craft of journalism is becoming in the world's most dangerous city. The crew's car apparently resembled a vehicle which the Marines had been warned might be carrying a bomb, and the driver, a Lebanese, failed to stop when the Marines fired warning shots into the ground around the vehicle.

He made the cardinal error of trying to reverse in panic, at which the Marines shot to kill - and missed.

As Mr Robert Perry, the news director of WITN-TV put it bluntly, if a trifle ingenuously, afterwards: "We got a driver that apparently didn't know where he was going and almost got us killed. I think they (the Marines) were justified in doing what they did. They told him to halt and he didn't."

In fact, Marines had earlier given the driver incorrect instructions on how to enter the heavily guarded base

Knife protest: A Druze fighter reacts angrily to the Israeli evacuation of Christian militiamen from Deir el-Qamar.

Clashes on French press Bill

From Diana Geddes, Paris

A debate began in the French Parliament last night on the Government's highly controversial Bill on press monopolies. This is aimed officially at limiting the size of press conglomerates and unofficially at breaking the back of the right-wing Hersant press empire.

The previous night an Opposition censure motion accusing the Government of attacking the fundamental right of freedom of information was overwhelmingly defeated by 247 votes to 158, but only after heated exchanges which at one stage prompted the Prime Minister to walk out, followed by the Socialist and Communist MPs.

The Bill seeks to prohibit any one man or group from owning more than three national papers whose combined circulation

must not exceed 15 per cent of total national newspaper sales; owning both a national daily paper and a provincial daily paper; and owning provincial dailies (of unlimited number) whose combined circulation exceeds 15 per cent of total provincial daily sales.

In addition, it stipulates that the name of the person who owns or controls a newspaper in each issue of that paper, together with the titles of any other papers within the same ownership, the name of the editor and the size of the paper's circulation.

M. Pierre Hersant, owner of the leading right-wing daily, *Le Figaro*, falls foul of the proposed law in two ways. He owns three national papers whose combined sales amount to 40 per cent of the total, and 14

Atom tests damage not proved

From Tony Dubondin
Melbourne

Studies on Australians who took part in British atomic tests on Monte Bello Island and at Maralinga in the 1950s and 1960s have concluded that there is no evidence to suggest the tests had adverse effects.

The studies, tabled in the Senate yesterday, were carried out by the Federal Department of Health and looked at the health of more than 9,000 people.

Dr Neal Blewett, the Minister for Health, said he had long recognized the concern of many former participants in the tests about the possible long-term effects of exposure to radiation. However, these latest studies confirmed that it was not possible to demonstrate that exposure to radiation had had significant adverse effects.

In February, Mr Doug Rickard, a member of the health physics team at Maralinga from 1957 to 1959, suggested that radiation readings taken from people involved in the British tests had been faked.

Walesa to lay wreath

Gdansk (Reuter) - Mr Lech Walesa, leader of Poland's banned Solidarity trade union, said yesterday that he would lay flowers today at a monument to shipyard workers killed by police, as union supporters prepared for a day of anti-government protest.

Solidarity hopes, page 14

Educated men rule, but academic chaos reigns

From Rasis Gurdilek
Ankara

The newly installed government of Mr Turgut Ozal is, educationally, one of the most impressive in Turkey's history, including 11 engineers, three financial experts, two doctors of medicine, a jurist and an economist. Most have degrees from Western universities.

However, the background of this comparatively young team contrasts sharply with the state of the universities, reduced to a shambles by controversial "reform" and ensuing purges by the former military regime.

In an attempt to end what was seen as intellectual support for the political terrorism which racked the country in the pre-coup years, the universities were brought under state control through the creation,

two years ago, of a higher education board.

Of its 25 members, eight were appointed by the president, one by the chief of the general staff, six by the Council of Ministers and two by the Ministry of Education, leaving only eight members for the universities to elect themselves.

Mandated to impose stern discipline on the then-autonomous higher education institutions and substitute a "national" culture for "harmful foreign ideologies", the board started a series of purges which put an abrupt end to the careers of many liberal academics and those suspected of being Marxists.

Many others resigned in protest at this attack on academic freedom, or quit to avoid the consequences of

dismissal ordered by the martial law authorities which entailed disqualification for life from any further government service.

A dismissed assistant professor from the faculty of political sciences at Ankara university one of the most elite institutions, until recently regarded as an "incubator" for trained bureaucrats for government service, told *The Times* that the teaching staff of 162 was almost halved in two years after the establishment of the board, despite an approximate 40 per cent increase in the number of students.

Professor Ihsan Dogramaci, the president of the board, remains confident that the "reform" he has masterminded will prove to be of benefit to the universities in the long run and refuses to admit any serious after-effects of the purges. He says that those dismissed constitute an insignificant number of the total teaching staff. But he was forced to attempt, with poor results so far, to recruit academics from abroad, particularly Britain.

Academic circles remain pessimistic about the prospects of a liberalization of the measures in the near future, even by the government of Mr Ozal, whose election manifesto had backed multi-party democracy, along with moderation.

Indeed, in an interview earlier this month, the victor of the poll was quoted as being careful not to commit himself to a revision of the higher education policies, noting that the new regulations enjoyed constitutional sanctity.

DESPISE HIS AGE
THIS ONE WILL
RUN AND RUN!

I NEVER
SAID NEVER AGAIN

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Doubts over future of Vienna talks

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

After listening to complaints from Jewish West Bank leaders - including a twice-repeated claim that the Jews were "dogs in Arab eyes" because of the lack of physical response to recent attacks - Mr Shamir delivered a considered reply which included a call for self-restraint.

"We belong to the same school of thought", he told the settlers. "But we absolutely must not get involved in settlers' violence. Those people who have been strong in what they have built must also be strong in self-control."

Speaking at Bracha, a controversial new outpost overlooking the Palestinian town of Nablus, Mr Shamir surprised his ultra-nationalist audience by saying that stone-throwing was only a secondary problem. He stressed that those who attacked Jews

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Never Say Never Again (PG)

Warner 4; ABC Shaftesbury Avenue; Studio Oxford Circus; Classics Haymarket, Tottenham Court Road

Jaws 3D (PG)

Plaza

A new There would be little point in we mentioning that *Never Say Never Again*, directed by Irvin Kershner, is try one of the more tedious entertainments on offer this Christmas. No one would believe it of a James Bond we picture; and in any event brand to loyalty works such wonders that the loc film has been topping the box-office 1-charts in the United States since it

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Sadler's Wells

ce Di Talk about jet-setting: last week w Twyla Tharp's company was evading in Rome, while the pa American Ballet Theatre with Baryshnikov premiered Tharp's in *Sinatra Suite* in Washington. Now Tharp and her dancers are at Sadler's Wells, where *Nine Sinatra Songs* (which was the starting point of the new *Sinatra* Ballet) was the big hit of Wednesday night's opening. The ball also included another world premiere in quite a different mode, *Tellemann*, and for starters *Sue's Leg* danced to songs by Fats Waller.

That was a particularly apt start because his way with a song is very much Tharp's way with a dance. They take something standard and give it an individual twist so that it comes up looking quite different. In *Sue's Leg*, the dance style is related to disco dancing, but it would be an unusual disco that attracted dancers with the flair and personality of Jennifer Wayne, Tom Rawe and Raymond Kursahl, not to mention Tharp herself.

Besides which, there is the point that within the deceptively casual ease of it all you actually get bits of tap, vaudeville and other skills thrown in. Then for *Tellemann*, to that composer's Concerto in E major for flute, oboe d'amore and

Dance

Twyla Tharp violin, suddenly Tharp goes all ballistic.

Do not be fooled. This is no more real ballet than the dancers' elegant *deshabille* (by Santo Loquasto, all in white) is real ballet costumes. There are some real ballet steps there on stage, but, as I see it, the intention is to provide a personal equivalent of the lightness, formality and grace of ballet, since that suits this music, but to do it without following ballet's conventions.

Tellemann is all delicacy and playfulness; *Nine Sinatra Songs* is sheer razzmatazz in the most glamorous of three handsome settings that are created almost entirely by Jennifer Tipton's superb lighting. The music is actually eight songs and a reprise, cunningly shaped for maximum impact. You start with three duets in a row, each with different dancers, then bring the three couples together for a pseudo-finale to "My Way". After that, start all over with another one, two, three, four couples, building from one, climax to another - and how can you miss when everyone comes back again to "My Way"?

The dancers look stunning (pretty dresses and dinner jackets), the choreography is witty, sexy and stunning by turns (sometimes all at once), and the effect is as if all those half-remembered marvellous old movies had come to life. John Percival

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Cinema: David Robinson pays tribute to the genius of Max Linder (left), born 100 years ago today, and reviews new releases in London

Treasurer of visual comedy

One hundred years ago today Gabrielle Leuville was born in Saint-Louïs, a little village near Bourgogne, where his parents were wine-growers. As Max Linder he was to become the first great international clown in the cinema. In the seven years preceding the First World War he achieved worldwide fame and popularity that were only to be exceeded by Charlie Chaplin. Yet today Linder is hardly remembered, at least outside his native France. When this year's London Film Festival showed *The Man in the Silk Hat*, the delightful biographical tribute by Linder's own daughter, it was the first opportunity for over half a century to see his masterpiece of comedy, but very few Londoners were curious enough to attend the show.

Linder was the first to introduce comedy of character to the screen. Other comedians of his generation depended upon frenetic knockout. The comedy of Linder's films, like that of Chaplin or any of the later great comedians, rose less from the inherent comedy of the action than from his own responses to it. In Linder's case the humour lay in the contrast between the mad, disordered world he created around him and his own indestructible elegance and style. He was no grotesque: he was young, handsome, debonair, gay, immaculate (give or take an occasional tumble in a sofa or soaking with a nose) in silk hat, rock coat, cravat, spats, patent shoes and swagger cane. He was gallant, and gallantry was generally his downfall, for either his lady friends demanded extravagant exploits, as proof of affection or

time, however, Linder had built up a treasury of visual comedy which has continued to serve his successors - Chaplin included - down to the present day. It is hard to discover a comedy plot or a single gag that is not anticipated in the 500 or more short comedies of his prolific output.

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he was forced to desperate measures to avoid large and jealous husbands.

The sophistication of his humour and technique were far ahead of their time. He revealed a disconcerting camera sense even before he became his own director. In his first starring film, *Debut d'un patineur*, he manages, as he teeters and tumbles on his skates, always to keep himself in perfect compositional relationship with the exquisite backgrounds of the frozen Lake Daumesnil. Called upon to turn his films at the rate of one a week and sometimes one a day, he made imaginative use of whatever locations and props were at hand: the Paris streets, Berlin squares and a Madrid corrida when he was on a theatrical tour of Europe; the Côte d'Azur or the ski slopes when he was snatching vacations; his family home when he was recuperating from one of the succession of illnesses that dogged him.

The poles of Linder's creation were the vivid reality that came from this habit of using friends in preference to the studio, and the surrealities of

his comic imagination. Normally inanimate objects like shoes will develop erotic lives of their own or Linder will launch into nightmares of being discovered taking a bath in public, or engaging in deadly combat with indomitable flypapers.

How could such a supreme comic talent come to be forgotten? He was a victim of history. At the moment that Chaplin emerged to eclipse the rest, Linder's career was abruptly halted by the First World War. After it, badly injured both physically and psychologically, he found it hard to rebuild his career. Two adventures in Hollywood production were less than successful. Back in France, his feature career was over; indeed, eventually he could bear no more. On October 30, 1925, apparently in a suicide pact, he and his 20-year-old wife died in a Paris hotel, in the room with them their baby daughter, Maud Max Linder, who had spent her adult life working to restore the recognition her father deserves. (Channel 4, which does so much for our visual education, plans to show *The Man in the Silk Hat*, her latest and finest tribute, in the near future.)



Norman Rossington: thunderous applause

Theatre

Bungled burglary

Mother Goose

Shaw

The second *Mother Goose* of the year is a slicker and better cast piece of work than the Watford version, with equal claims as a traditional panto. But, where Watford gave the story a local twist, the Shaw version simply takes events as they come, dragging the author (Myles Ridge) along in their wake.

On come the Prince of Darkness and his roguishly attractive opposite (Edward Fox, Rowan Atkinson, as "staples"). The compensation, excepting is the arch-villain of Klaus, Maria Branicki, easily the best thing in any Bond film since Lotte Lenya honoured *Russia With Love*. As Max Largo, photocratic collector of yachts, beautiful women, objets d'art and stolen Cruise missiles, he displays a serpentine charm and the chill calm at the edge of madness. Brandauer and the old familiar face of Connelly very nearly make it all worthwhile.

Between the Bond film and *Jaws*

3D much of the week seems to have been spent underwater. Again brand loyalty will doubt come into play, though the latest *Jaws* seems aimed at an audience so young that they are likely to suffer nightmares from the intermittent shots of bisected corpses; the "Parental Guidance"

process now seems only to be waiting for better uses.

Television

Firing line

To those who watched Monday's *Horizon*, in which FBI marksmen learnt gleefully to hit the centre mass between their targets' armpits, last night's TV Eye (ITV) will have seemed endearingly homespun.

"Where's that first live round?",

an officer asked a volunteer

hoping to join the 5,000

authorized shots in the Metropolitan Police. The round was not

where it should have been.

"Oh my God!", said the officer,

with a mock-desperate laugh.

Selection methods for this

elite group were, according to

one new entrant, inevitably "a

hit and miss affair". Well, yes and no. The programme had begun with a convincingly wet and confused re-enactment of the shooting of Stephen Ward, who was seen coaching the actors in their nasty, short and brutal parts. "We were frightened", said one of the actors, explaining his near-fatal mistake. One of Scotland Yard's top men indicated that psychological testing would soon form part of their selection procedures: a retired superintendent, from Yorkshire suggested that "training courses should have such stresses built into them as would 'make a man break if he's going to'."

For Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante*, K364, Mr Accardo continued as director while taking up not his expected violin but the viola. The violin soloist was Iona Brown. An opening tutti showed that modest woodwind and brass additions made little difference to the sharpness of the CoE's ensemble. And these players were full of well-directed energy in the purely orchestral passages of the latter movements.

Both soloists were at first rather disappointing, and did not project their phrases at all convincingly. In time they merged into the foreground, however, and gave a very fine account of the first movement's cadenza. The central Andante was far more consistent, and the soloists' was a beautiful conversation indeed. Though always considerable, their expressive intensity was varied with much discretion.

We finally heard Mr Accardo's masterly violin playing in Mozart's rather lengthy "Haffner" Serenade, K250, which he again conducted. He proved to be stylish in both roles, and shaped the adventurous development section of the first movement with considerable insight. And soon afterwards there was some nearly sublime solo violin playing.

Max Harrison

defined in the finale, but one

could have done with a clearer

differentiation of tempos between these last two movements. The composer's directions - Allegro di molto and Allegro assai - are not of

maximum helpfulness.

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But again, that lapses into a bungled burglary routine by the resident clown (Jim Dunk and Clive Wood), incorporating an even feebler ghost routine.

The book is full of empty pantomime tricks (such as the obligatory big Hello for the most superfluous character), loose ends and undeveloped ideas.

Looking on the bright side, the show has a good score by John Gould that goes with a fine music-hall bounce and includes numbers, such as a recipe for eel stew, that lend themselves to witty chorus work. Ian Judge's production is at its best as a musical: bringing the conspirators together to defend their egg-grabbing as "All For the Public Good", and greeting the visitors to the North Pole with a chorus line of tap-dancing penguins.

Briefly granted his return to the stage, Mr Rossington makes a fetching appearance in a tutu to thunderous applause and blown kisses from his ballerina partner. And, besides Robert Austin's Demon King, a satirically Edwardian heavy swell, there is a very classy principal boy from Gay Soper, obvious Prince material however humble his surroundings.

Irving Wardle

painted well that got nudged aside to let Dame's sedan chair off stage, my only real gripe is that the show's eye on the box office directs it at a telly-reared audience: electric guitar and percussion even for *Nutcracker* dances and saucy chorus girls as seen on the box.

Even Dame Doughty (Frances Desmonde) expects and gets the right reply for "Hi-de-hi" but he and Muddles (Mike Newman) have the uncanny rapport of a twinkling Paddy and a rouged old cabbage in caniknickers as they bat balls of dough round the house till everyone winces.

Entering with "Happy Talk" (with blissful incongruity), Dame relaxed into her young audience's vociferous reactions and registers innocent alarm by turning her palms outward as though testing wind resistance prior to takeoff.

Barbara Hallwell's Wicked Queen makes her mark with her chandelier-shattering cackle but the upstaging prize must go to the little red-suited girl, unwisely beckoned on, who peered self-possessedly towards the wings, waved to violet junior audiences will probably clamour to buy.

Apart from the sticking door (good for comic adlibs), the thudding drop curtain did the

Anthony Masters

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SPECTRUM

Sex, sadism and . . . shrewdness

Actor Sean Connery is best known for his role as James Bond, Ian

Fleming's suave, cool secret agent. But the Bond image is a far cry from the star's early life in an Edinburgh tenement. Duncan Fallowell talks to Connery as his new Bond film opens in Britain

This interview is short and fast, bright and early in the George V Suite at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane.

Sean Connery is wearing a green Bahamas Golf Club sweater. The Bahamas and Marbella are alternately "home". But Mr Connery is a shrewd Scot — the legal address is Monte Carlo.

What's his next film going to be? "I've no idea. I've acquired a whole batch of stuff I want to read. I haven't read anything in a long time. I've been doing things like 30-hour flights from Australia. You can't concentrate if you do things like that." Who's his favourite actor? "Unfortunately he died. Sir Ralph Richardson." Actress? "Um... I adore Katherine Hepburn."

Nothing very idiosyncratic so far. Connery conveys a tremendous impression of reliability both as man and star. His impact is larger than life. Or is it less than life, this giant certainty unencumbered by neurosis, this temperament whose most exotic obsession is golf?

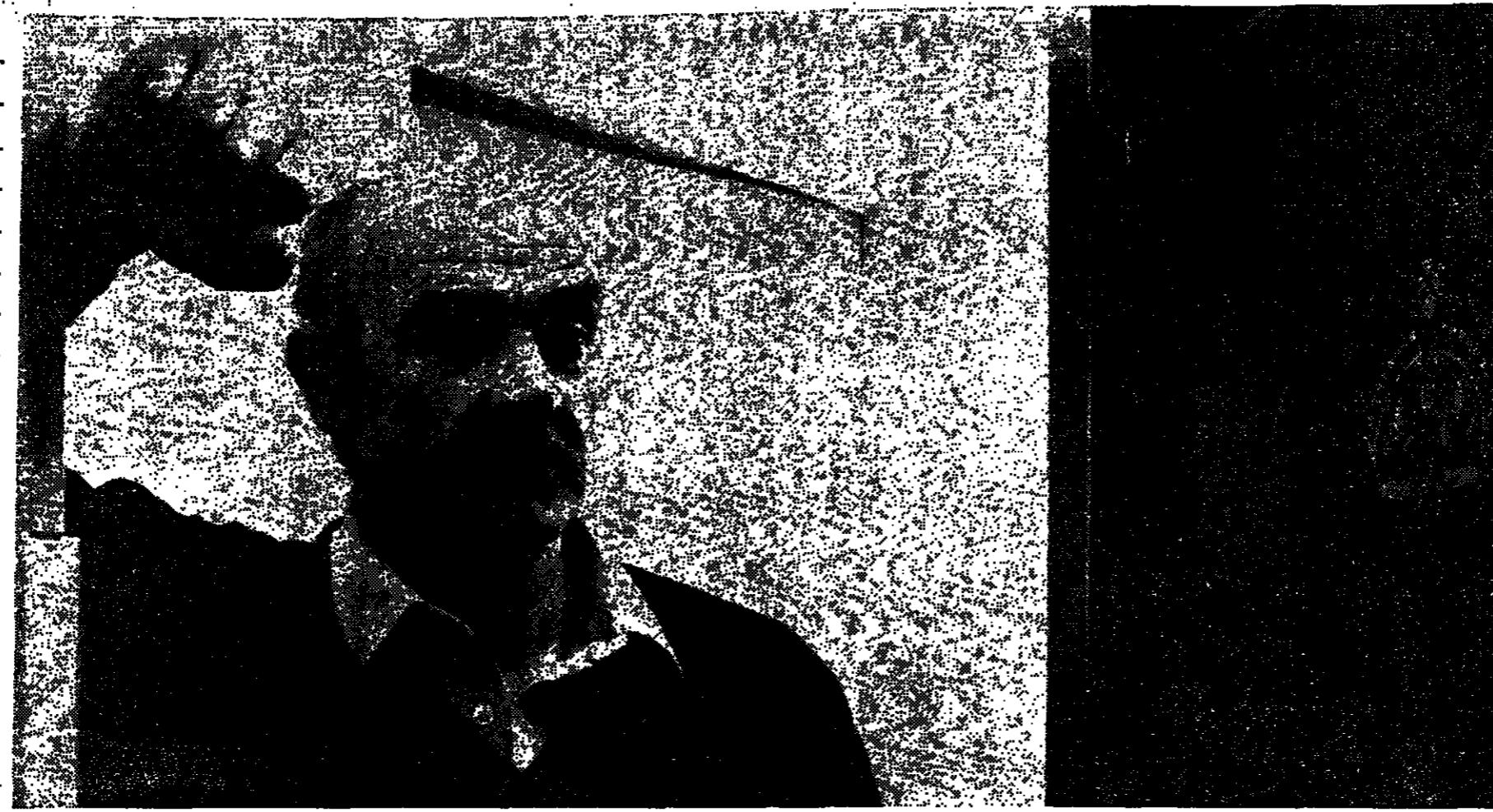
What are his weaknesses as an individual? "The real skill in dealing with major problems in relationships is to be able to know something about someone. You know something about a producer, say. To know it so that it doesn't get in the way of the main issue, that kind of detachment, I find it awfully difficult."

Well, here's an American question connected with that: has being famous made him a nicer person?

"I think I can say I've never maliciously done anything to anyone. If I have any religion or philosophy it's that I'd rather leave the place at least the same, if not better, having been here. And I have no desire to treat people any other way than I would like to be treated myself."

The Connery Code is a pretty strict one but, honed in a northern climate, it comes naturally to him. He doesn't smoke. He doesn't like bunglers or smart alecs or inefficiency of any kind. He goes straight from the film set to the golf course to the marital bed with hardly any deviations en route except, perhaps, for a sensible meal. But he isn't a cold person, at least not with strangers, so what's his idea of a good party?

"No more than six or eight people. Oh, that's not always true — we had a very good party, more or less by accident, when we were filming in London and I had an apartment in Lennox Gardens, just behind Harrods there. I just decided to have a few people round and it coincided with people coming into town — Michael



Sean Connery: "I think I can say I've never maliciously done anything to anyone" (Photograph by Brian Harris)

was coming in — Michael and Shania... yes, Caine. Roger was there — Roger Moore, that is — and Albert Finney and Diana Quick — and James Hunt and his dog Oscar — and Jackie — Jackie Stewart, with his wife, and Barbara was there with the guy she's now married to, Barbara Carrera, and Michael Medwin — none of us had seen each other for a week while it went on and on, nobody wanted to go. It was marvellous. That's what a party's all about — timing. Otherwise I like a dinner where there's at least two people who don't quite get on."

When was the last time you were drunk?

The Connery Code, honed in a northern climate

"Oh, just the other night actually. I like Scotch. I'm going back a bit to beer now, too."

How many children do you have? "That's because I inherited some. When I married Diane Cilento she already had a daughter. Then we had Jason, who's my only child." Divorced 1973. "My present wife has from a previous marriage two sons and a daughter, and the daughter has two daughters." He married Micheline in 1976. She is Moroccan. They met at a golf tournament in Mohammedia, Morocco. Connery won the men's title, she the women's.

Have you enjoyed being a father? "... Yes. One could have been better. Coming late to a choice of career, not marrying until late, the showbusiness lifestyle, the need for domestic help, got in the way somewhat."

Your own home as a child — was it warm and welcoming?

"No. It was very austere. So one really spent as much time as possible out in the streets."

Connery is an intelligent man, but one drawn in broad, simple strokes with any oddities ruthlessly edited out as soon as he was sufficiently rich and famous to become uncompromisingly non-eccentric. But the granite line begins early, in 1930 when he was born into a poor Edinburgh household and given the name Thomas: father a lorry driver, mother a charlady, his cot a wardrobe drawer, his bedroom later the kitchen, tin baths in front of the fire, a lavatory shared by 12 families on the tenement staircase.

At nine he started work, delivering milk before school. At 13 he left school and became a full-time milkman. At 17 he went into the Royal Navy — discharged three years later with ulcers. Subsequent jobs included lorry driver, cement mixer, bricklayer, steel bender, coffin polisher.

Then more curious and narcissistic influences came into play. He became a lifeguard at a swimming pool, took up body building, became an artist's model where he learned to relax while displaying himself — excellent training for a star whose key quality would always be physical presence. Connery represented Scotland in a Mr Universe competition (bronze medal) in London, where a friend playing in the musical *South Pacific* said there was a vacancy in the chorus. On impulse Connery applied and got it. He decided to become a actor.

Although Tom became Sean in 1951, stardom wasn't as immediate. His first break was in a television play in 1956 — a 20th Century Fox contract and string of B films followed. "I'll do anything to get my hands on," he said to Patricia Lewis in her "Confidentially" column in the *New Chronicle* in 1957. What he describes as the "prostitution phase" of his life ended in 1962 with the appearance of the first Bond, Dr No.

If he was a lad in Edinburgh now,

unemployed, no future, what would he do?

"It's desperate, I know. I've been up there. As you'll note, I was able to get into the work ethic very early. What happens now, I don't know..."

Now for a few questions about sex. Connery is known to resent too-direct questions about his personal life, but he doesn't flinch. First, how did he discover the facts of life?

"Oh well, where I was born they were all messeng around from the ages of seven and eight onwards in this big tenement building. It was impossible not to discover the facts of life. And there's a great puritan streak in Scotland which of course immediately intrigued the children — you wanted to know all about what was so terrible."

Can you remember your first experience of a woman?

"The decisive encounter was — we used to have air-raid shelters underground because the war was still on, I expect they're all filled in now — and I was walking along and was followed by an ATS woman and I was what, 14 years old I suppose, just left school. We ended up down in the air-raid shelters. A lot of things started in those shelters. This one was full of water, I remember, with planks and duckboards to walk on."

In a 1961 interview he said: "I don't

know if he is a very masculine man — what is feminine in his character? For the first time the composure shudders. A glance of suspicion shoots out the side of his face, that famous suspicion which has battled journalists and producers alike, always on guard against being exploited, taken for a ride, used. He still attacks the exploiters, rather pointlessly since he's as rich as any. It is the puritanism again, informed by a slightly left wing sympathy. But actors are made to be used and, if they want to be stars, exploitation of their qualities is essential.

"... I don't know. I'm not very good at reading my feminine side. You'll probably have to ask my wife. I don't see myself as macho as the image. It's something that got built up." One of the specific mistakes in *Never Say Never Again* is to put Connery into a toupé again. It ages him terribly. He looks much better without it. What's good about getting older?

"I'll can't think of too many things, actually. A Muslim Moroccan friend of my wife's says the thing to do is to acquire wisdom, that the real pleasure of getting older is to become wiser. I have flashes of what I take to be wisdom, but on the whole I don't seem to learn a great deal. I went through that phase of the *I Ching*. Ouspensky's *In Search Of The Miraculous*, Gurjieff, *The Tibetan Book of the Dead*. You know. At the end of the day, it's not dissimilar to what's in the Bible."

Life's been good to him, on the whole. Has he had to pay a price, has he known any extreme unhappiness?

"No, I think the job has given me a chance to play out the fantasies, the kind of stuff which might well otherwise build up inside. When I was young I was very anxious and tense, though. My ulcers started at 16. But acting released this. I never want to go back to that again."

"No, I'm not."

© Times Newspapers Limited, 1983



A 75-day journey in the footsteps of Captain Scott

miles of relatively flat barrier. When they reach the foot of the Beardmore glacier, loads will still be a daunting 200lbs. Ten days of herculean and dangerous effort should get them up the glacier and on to the polar plateau, where 350 miles will separate them from the Pole. They plan to take 75 days in all.

It is fascinating to compare the changes wrought by the passage of 74 years. I asked Swan what psychological advantages he had over his famous predecessor. "We now have no fear of scurvy," he replied. "Neither do we fear isolation."

Scurvy was the bane of expeditions until vitamins were discovered just after Scott's time. General nutrition has also much improved. For instance, Scott's daily ration, mainly of pemmican and biscuits, weighed 2lb 3ozs and gave 4,430 calories. Swan's will weigh 1lb 15ozs to produce 5,271 calories.

The suggestion that they will only be completing half of Scott's journey, and the easier half at that, Swan explains that Scott had taken support parties to within 170 miles of the Pole; they will take none. This will make their loads heavier, a brutal 300bs per man at the start, reducing by 5lbs a day as food and fuel are consumed.

As it is, they will start with full sledges to cross the first 400

stronger and better. Scott's reindeer-skin sleeping bag weighed 15lbs and iced up dangerously. The modern down-filled bag is warmer and weighs about 6lbs. Scott took an 11lbs pick axe. Swan will have a telescopic ski pole/ice axe weighing 3lbs. And this story is repeated with every item of equipment.

Mountaineers consider a pair of men to be at a hazard on a glacier because if one falls into a crevasse, the other cannot physically haul him out. Swan and Mear will be at particular risk on the fearsome Beardmore glacier. Crevasse rescue techniques have much improved, however, and they have some ingenious braking devices on their sledges to ensure that, if one man falls in, the other should not be dragged down also.

To keep costs down, the expedition will be conveyed to and from Antarctica by an Australian-manned yacht. Even so, the project will cost some £324,000 — a modest budget compared, for instance, with the £4m for the Fiennes Trans-Globe spectacular. In the course of the expedition the yacht will circumnavigate the globe and it will be sold on completion to reduce the budget. There will be a total of seven expedition members in addition to the yacht's crew.

Sir Peter Scott, son of Captain Scott, is the expedition's patron. He particularly welcomes the way in which it will draw attention to the now urgent problem of the conservation of Antarctica. I suspect that he will also welcome the attitude of respect for his father that the venture reflects, in contrast to the hatchet job done on his reputation by the recent book *Scott and Amundsen*.

Mike Banks

The author is an explorer and mountaineer and holder of the Polar medal.

moreover...
Miles Kington

The Last Post at Christmas

Wayside Pulpit, by the Totally Reverend Phil Marsh, Chaplain to the TUC

I read the other day in the paper that it was already too late to send Christmas cards to people beginning with "Z" in Buenos Aires.

Maybe those weren't the exact details. But that was the general idea.

And it made me very sad. Somewhere in an Argentine suburb sits someone called Alberto Zarzuela (let us say) who is condemned to receive no Christmas cards from us in Britain. A printer, perhaps, whose livelihood is threatened by the draconian laws enacted by the late military junta. How do we feel about this?

I know how I feel.

I feel that draconian is a funny word. People use it all the time without knowing what it means. I know I do. So today I am going to look it up in the dictionary.

Well, well, what do you know? Draco is the name of a faint constellation in the sky. So that is what it comes from.

No, hold on. Draco was also the name of an Athenian lawgiver who made almost everything punishable by death. So draconian law, they say, is "harsh".

I'll say.

I had no idea that it was punishable by death to form a closed shop of printers. No wonder our lads are out in force at Warrington. No wonder Alberto Zarzuela is feeling a bit apprehensive in sunny Argentina. Every Christmas card he receives is printed by a man who may have been taken out and shot by the time he gets it.

Makes you think, doesn't it?

Little did William Caxton think when he first used moveable type that his successors would be flocking to Warrington to safeguard their very lives. If he had known, do you think he would have joined them?

I doubt it.

In those days Warrington was but a tiny hamlet between Macclesfield and Liverpool, neither of which existed. Will Caxton and his merry band of flying pickets would have looked right twits descending on three cottages and shouting: "Reinstate ye Warrington size!" I doubt that there were six in Warrington to reinstate.

And yet the principle is absolutely good. Jesus says in the Bible (TUC version): "Blessed are the solid, for they shall get their just demands. Behold, I have been to my executive, and my executive is with me on this one."

What did He mean by this?

I think He meant that Alberto Zarzuela is depending on every one of us to stick by him this Christmas tide, to send him Christmas cards even if they arrive late. Behold, there were printers in the field to whom the angel appeared saying, "Have you got my carol sheet ready yet? And they made reply saying, "This is our busiest period, you will have to wait like everyone else. For unto us a son is born" &c., down the right wing and scored and bring to the table piping hot (continued page 67). Late result Wrexham 0, Hyndley 564.

I wonder what this means?

Blow me if I know.

And yet one thing I do know, because I have just looked it up in my Spanish dictionary. Zarzuela means "musical drama". Pantomime, perhaps? Do they also at this season have in Buenos Aires an extended run of "Ali Baba y los cuarenta ladrones"? Or "Ricardo Whittington", going on till March 3, if the new government lasts that long?

Impossible to tell. So let us, at this time of year, turn our thoughts finally to a stable in Bethlehem, where inside the oxen and ass are warm and comfortable, and outside a cold of freezing photographers waits in the cold. It's a hard life being a press photographer, waiting for something that may never happen, peering through frozen keyholes and breaking down doors with their bare hands.

I believe the Italians call them paparazzi.

I wonder why?

Unfortunately, I haven't got an Italian dictionary.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 225)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9						10
11						12
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ACROSS

- 1 Draufraud (7)
- 2 Colourless body fluid (5)
- 3 Finger weapon (7)
- 5 Found (7)
- 6 Idle (13)
- 7 Marx follower (7)
- 11 Anti aircraft fire (4)
- 12 Prevent from ear (4)
- 14 Big dipper (7)
- 15 Elaborate dress (3)
- 16 Smack (4)
- 17 Lifts (5)
- 18 Assume (3)
- 20 From a distance (4)
- 21 Ice hockey start (4,3)
- 22 Ingest (3)
- 23 Speak (3)
- 24 Greeter (7)
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FRIDAY PAGE

COMMENT

Long time on short list

I have just completed the current school headship circuit. By the end I had accepted my status as the statutory woman on a short list, or indeed often on the long list. The comments of male colleagues reveal a marked enthusiasm for the presence of females in the management team, combined with a despair at the paucity and relative lack of qualifications of such applicants.

In January 1982 there were 3,307 male secondary heads and 656 female secondary heads in maintained schools in England. The figures are undisputed. In today's social climate this is serious. First, current correspondence suggests a growing concern at the lack of outstanding applicants for top educational jobs; in which case artificial barriers hindering more than 50 per cent of teaching staff are folly. Second, it is democratically unacceptable to hinder the access of one particular group to top posts on entirely irrelevant grounds. Third, the hidden influence of the institutional power structure on the present generation of students has serious connotations. Fourth, changing social conventions mean that many women will become the breadwinners and therefore should certainly have fair access to more senior positions.

The reasons for this disparity in achievement are both practical and psychological. The overwhelming disadvantage the majority of women suffer is immobility. Most are married and cannot leave their husbands' area of work. The clogging up of the promotional ladder, consequent on declining rolls, has meant that movement is almost essential for promotion.

The effect of motherhood on careers prospects is seriously underestimated, despite lip service to its value as an experience. The physical effects of childbirth are often not emphasized. We suffer the worst maternity provisions in Western Europe, except for the Irish Republic. There is no guarantee of part-time work during the early years of motherhood, followed by a return to full-time employment. Instead, with the present job crisis, teachers must hang grimly on to their full-time posts or face long term unemployment. There are formidable child care obstacles.

My experience of commuting husbands in the South-east made me realize that a daily absence of 12 hours was normal. Professional promotion depends not only on the efficiency of one's teaching, but also on wider educational contributions, such as examination marking, union activity, part-time study for higher degrees and in-service training courses. Their combination with a full-time job, domestic responsibility and finally motherhood is formidable indeed.

Some would argue that the psychological barriers were even more important. The basic problem is women's perception of themselves and their abilities. For four years, as vice-principal, I was the sole female member of senior and middle management in a sixth-form college. All the heads of department - apart from Home Economics - were male. The stress was considerable.

What do we do? First, every LEA should circularize the relevant statistics. There is nothing like hard fact in fighting any case. Second, those shortlisting for any senior appointment (Scale III upwards) should give clearly formulated reasons for an entirely male shortlist. Third, every LEA should mount in-service training sessions organized by women for their female teachers. Fourth, requirements are more fundamental and include changes in our outdated maternity provisions and the Victorian assumptions of our tax and benefit laws.

For years we have accepted the philosophy that deprivation stemming from class and race must be rectified by positive action. Even the traditionally liberal minded job at a similar stance on sex.

Geraldine Evans
The author is principal of King George V College, Southampton.

Casualties of the cold

Legend has it that the saintly King Wenceslas needed divine intervention to preserve the circulation in his feet as he braved the ice and snow; for those who have cardiovascular problems, but do not expect a miracle, a few simple precautions will reduce their chance of becoming one of the many casualties of cold weather.

Doctors find that trouble often arises as the patient prepares to go to work, or goes to bed. It is foalhardy for a man with a poor coronary circulation to leave the warmth of his house for the hard, unaccustomed labour of clearing snow in freezing conditions, and the circulatory strain is increased if he then drives to work in a car colder than the household refrigerator. If the car has to stand outside, the engine and heater should be turned on before it is time to leave.

Strenuous exercise, including sawing logs and wood-chopping, are better avoided in very cold weather, but enough fuel must be brought in during the day so that the warmth of evening fire need not be left for a chilly trip to the coal shed.

Bedrooms should be heated, bedroom windows kept closed, and beds warmed so that the circulation does not have to withstand ice cold sheets.

Helen Mason on
the rivalry over
a race to publish
artists' versions
of Shakespeare

When *Macbeth* in cartoon strip form was introduced to an astounded public last year there were many, including scholars, purists, and publishers who had turned the work down, who believed there was no market for such an outrageous product. They were all wrong. Not only is there a market, but also there is considerable rivalry to corner it. This month, with *Macbeth* still selling, there are two more cartoon books on sale.

The cartoon classics were the brainchild of artist Von, who has produced a version of *Romeo and Juliet* (pictured right) which has reached the book shops only days before a cartoon version of *Othello*. To the public, all three cartoons look like part of a series, with variations only in price. They are identical in shape and size and all use first folio texts. But in fact they come from different publishers.

Von's first illustrated play, *Macbeth*, was neglected for three years until it was spotted by Anne Tauté, who created Oval Projects in order to publish it. But Von's subsequent version of *Romeo and Juliet* was published by Michael Joseph. Oval Projects' second Shakespeare cartoon was drawn by Oscar Zarate.

Both publishers intend to produce more plays and such rivalry must be settled all who doubted that comic book Shakespeare was a commercial proposition.

Publishers who rejected *Macbeth* invariably asked: "Who is it aimed at?" Scholars would disdain the unsuitable format, they said, while comic book devotees would be dismayed by the full text. But *Macbeth* was bought by children as well as adults, and often by parents and teachers. It is a success.

If the race is taken the full length of all 37 plays, the odds are on Anne Tauté to win. She has more runners in the field. Michael Joseph intend to put all their money on Von, but Oval Projects will use a different artist for each play.

Von, who estimates it costs him £15,000 to produce the artwork for a play, started to sell the idea halfway through the recession. He took on a business partner in a venture calling for faith - it was three years before they sold *Macbeth*. Anne Tauté had faith. She saw the artwork in New York and mortgaged her house, sold

it.

Romeo and Juliet, published by Michael Joseph, beat *Othello* to the

relationship with Oscar Zarate, who was paid a flat fee for *Othello*, was trouble-free.

Von approaches Shakespeare with respect, affection and a rather scholarly tendency to pedantry. He owns the first folio edition from which the text for the plays was used.

Zarate, an Argentinian, has a gentle, diffident personality which no one who has seen his work would expect. His pictures suggest he sees the world as a menacing place, an atmosphere he has grafted on to his bald and sinister Venetians, his sly-lipped lago and his foolishly venal Rodrigo. His work on *Othello* is an extension of the drawings of punks and skinheads in his studio.

At 41, he is ten years older than Von. The idea of a Spanish-speaking Argentinian producing an illustrated *Othello* had struck me as incongruous, but Zarate smiled and said: "We read Shakespeare in Argentina, you know. He does not belong only to the English."

Although Zarate had no difficulties with Oval Projects, his work on *Othello* was not devoid of trauma. When he was commissioned to do the play, the Falklands crisis was reaching its height and it affected him badly. "I became very paranoid. I was disgusted with the whole event, with both sides. When the war started I was dealing with the first act where Othello is called to the senate and has to go and repress a Turkish invasion of Cyprus." The parallels struck him forcibly. "I was very paralysed for a while. I was going from radio to television to

Standing studiously back from these disagreements is Von's new editor, Phillipa Harrison at Michael Joseph, an English graduate whose first reaction to cartoon Shakespeare was lukewarm. She changed her mind, she said, when the American company which owns the rights showed her Von's work. "I think it is absolutely lovely", she said. "And I think there is no harm in having two publishers doing illustrated Shakespeare. Providing we don't overlap."

The crucial question is, how many copies of *Macbeth* have been sold?

One report stated that the English printing of 33,000 sold out in three months and in America, with a print run of 53,000, it is being reprinted.

Von is very interested in these figures which he is trying to verify.

Anne Tauté, however, claims the first edition has not sold out in England, and says the American publishers are wishing they had not ordered so many.

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The view contrasted sharply with that of a teacher, now head of English at a sixth-form centre, who taught until this year at a mixed ability school in a deprived area.

She said: "I welcome anything that makes Shakespeare more accessible. When I was dealing with third and fourth-year classes of girls who approached Shakespeare with reluctance, I used devices like this myself. I got them to put the story into cartoon form, report the plots as for a newspaper, and act them out."

I often found that overcoming initial reluctance was all that was needed. The layout of a play, any play, can be off-putting to anyone. And Shakespeare, with all those slabs of verse and archaic words, is particularly alien at first."

There is no cosy ending to this story perhaps there never will be. But I have still a daughter, and a relationship with her, that I care deeply about. And I have still a lot to learn.

A help or a hindrance? What the critics say

"They're ghastly... terrible... dreadful", said the actor, Donald Sinden. "What really appeals me is that for these prices people could get really good seats in a theatre to see the plays. Take Iago, from *Othello*, the play I know best because I have just played it. He is meant to disarm, the audience should trust him. This fago, from page one onwards, is utterly villainous. As for the speeches, the verses - they are better laid out, dare I say it, in a Penguin edition. I think people who read comics would find it all very confusing."

Schoolchildren were all prepared to welcome the books, even flick through them, although none seized them to retire to a quiet corner. I sought a more profound view from the only A-level student I know who is an authority on Shakespeare.

Matthew Fay is 17, comes from a family with theatrical enthusiasms stretching back to the Abbey theatre and has been a dedicated theatregoer since childhood.

He has seen much of Shakespeare, including *Othello* four or five times, and got an A grade at O-level in English literature. He used his own acid test on the cartoon plays by looking for specific soliloquies and speeches to see how they had been

treated, and found the layout unsympathetic.

"It's not in verse lines, so you do not get the idea of iambic pentameter. Where the verse does matter you have to dart from place to place. The pictures work best where there are few words and a lot of action, such as Cassio's drunk scene. I'd love to have had something like this in the third year, but it wouldn't have much value for anyone seriously studying a play."

He liked the look of *Romeo and Juliet*. "The pictures make a good attempt at continuity. I think this guy manages to make the drawings complement the play. The colours and pictures do have a dramatic tenor to them, and the pictures are more sensitive to the text."

The views of teachers vary with the abilities of the children they teach. David Lund, head of English at a public day-school for boys, was unhappy.

"If it is a way of bringing people to see the word on a page, Anything that brings Shakespeare to people who might not otherwise read the plays, fine. And on the credit side, at least the text is intact. But there is more to say against than for. There is the problem of who is speaking and in what order, and a shortage of stage directions. When you are studying Shakespeare, as opposed to reading it, you need a glossary. I think this is pandering to a mentality which expects everything packaged in pop form."

As more women return to work after childbirth, the date of delivery becomes of economic as well as social importance. But however assiduously couples study calendars, charts, and diaries, the timing of conception remains difficult so that babies are still apt to be born before the firm's busiest time.

A report suggests that there are rather better reasons for careful planning of birthdays than the firm's holiday schedule or a misplaced belief in horoscopes. The season of a baby's birth can have a marked effect on its chances of developing a common form of allergic asthma due to a sensitivity to housemites.

The study shows that children born in the summer and autumn are more likely to suffer from allergic diseases due to housemites, one of the common causes of asthmatic wheezing and nasal snuffing problems which, once initiated, may persist throughout life.

Even in the cleanest houses mites are abundant between May and September, since babies are more easily sensitized to an allergy in the first six months of life than at other ages, parents with a strong family history of allergy might be wise to plan for a winter or spring child.

Perhaps, with regard to the article on widows, (Monday Page, December 12) and bearing in mind the status of these ladies in an Indian household, this practice was not as barbaric as the western mind thought.

Apart from being in the emotional state that death provokes, they were generally heavily drugged before throwing themselves onto the flames.

Casualties of the cold

Invitro innovation

An improvement in the technique for invitro fertilization (test tube babies), introduced at Kings College Hospital will, by being safer and very much cheaper, enable far more women with blocked fallopian tubes to have babies. Two years ago Professor Stuart Campbell, heard of a method of collecting eggs from the human ovary.

It is this idea which has been developed by Professor Campbell and his team so that the procedure can be done as an outpatient. No anaesthesia or operating theatres are used, and as no hospital beds or staff are required, the cost is substantially reduced.

The patient's ovaries are first stimulated by giving a hormone, FSH. Later a second hormone, HCG precipitates ovulation; exactly 35 hours after this hormone has been given a woman is ready to have three or four eggs aspirated from her ovary. She is seen in a sterile room where, under ultrasound surveillance, a needle is guided through the abdominal wall and bladder to the egg. Fifty hours later the woman returns, again as an out-patient, to have the fertilized eggs, embryos, implanted in her uterus.

The method is simple, safe and quick: it has not produced any side effects, other than an occasional trace of blood in the first specimen of urine passed after the eggs have been collected. It does of necessity rely upon a highly trained team.

Several attacks of food poisoning have been traced to the habit of carving on the kitchen chopping board rather than in the dining room.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Poultry poison

However distressing the emotional trials which the heads of state may have had to bear at the European Community Summit in Athens, they can not have been more trying than the physical problems they had to overcome at the meeting two years ago, when over 500 people were afflicted with food poisoning. This incident has been used to illustrate the perils of institutional cooking and the need for care when cooking the Christmas dinner.

Poultry is notorious for spreading gastrointestinal infections, particularly salmonella and campylobacter, for however careful the butcher, the bird is likely to be contaminated by spill intestinal contents.

It is important that frozen poultry is completely thawed before cooking and that uncooked meat of whatever sort is not put in the same refrigerator as cooked food, or allowed to come in contact with it. Hands and kitchen utensils should be washed thoroughly after handling meat or poultry.

Once these very difficult techniques have been mastered, a skilled surgeon is usually able to achieve a better result by removing only the damaged portion of the cartilage. He can do this through the comparatively small incision needed for the passage of his instruments rather than by opening up the whole joint.

The new operation can be done in a day surgical unit.

Knee surgery

This month the first of this year's skiers will hobble along to their doctors complaining that their knees click, lock, or are just swollen and painful; they will join the injured from the football field already on a waiting list for meniscectomy, the operation for removal of the whole damaged cartilage.

A recent review questions whether the development of the arthroscope, an illuminated viewing tube, now renders this operation obsolete for most cases. Although surgeons have, since the First World War, been able to look into the knee joint with an arthroscope, it has only

become established as a diagnostic procedure in the last 20 years, and only within the last decade have advances in instrumentation enabled surgeons to develop techniques of operating on the cartilage under direct vision.

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Cheque mate

Peter Kellner, political editor of the *New Statesman*, was experiencing some delay earlier this year in receiving a £50 fee from TV-am. Every time he complained, he was told the computer had broken down, his cheque was awaiting signature, or that sort of thing. He mentioned this to Peter Jay, former chief executive of TV-am, when both political pundits were appearing on *Channel 4's A Week in Politics*.

Jay suggested a solution: Kellner should threaten to petition to have his company wound up if it didn't pay the debt. Kellner promptly rang his secretary involved and said: "Tell your boss that if I don't have my cheque by the end of the day, I'll wind up his company."

The cheque was waiting for him at his reception desk at 5.30 pm. TV-am show no hard feelings - shortly afterwards they rang up Kellner at 4 am to ask him to appear on that morning's show...

Special delivery

No wonder trade unionists are attempting quick getaways when they see a gentleman with a large seal document in his hand moving towards them. This week, the cost of mailing a writ in the Supreme Court went up from £50 to £55. This cost passed on to whomsoever issued the writ in the first place would be of little use the subsequent court case.

Doleful

Matthew Parris, formerly a member of Mrs Thatcher's private office and now MP for Derbyshire West, recently completed filming a *World in Action* programme. In it, he tries to discover at first hand what life is like when you're on the dole. The programme was provisionally scheduled for next week but has now been withdrawn. Granada Television, which makes *World in Action*, was reluctant to give reasons why. Since *World in Action* is off the air after next week, until mid-January, one supposes that the Parris programme must have a certain timeless quality.

Doo-dah day

Ady Olga Maitland's troops and the Greenham Common demonstrators will be joining battle again this Sunday. While demonstrators mass outside the Ministry of Defence, the mainland contingent will be on the opposite side of the road, each holding a letter of the alphabet which together spell out "Women and families for defence".

Lady Olga's chosen weapon, a flaming sword brandished aloft, will probably not deter the other sort of peace women from attacking her with their latest battle song. It goes something like this:

"Olga Maitland will be nuked, doo-dah, Olga Maitland will be nuked... and so on."

BARRY FANTONI



We're seriously considering putting only one spare room in the fall-out shelter."

Cryptic

Eton College has recently discovered "a few bones" in the crypt beneath the college chapel, not exactly an uncommon location, but the Provost of Eton, Lord Charteris, is concerned because "they are loose and we don't know whose they are". He believes that, rather than being the remains of "some overflown medieval pupil" they are "the family of one of my Provoost predecessors".

Does David Hockney have the finest writing hand in the West? In a 30-minute signing session at the Hayward Gallery this week, Hockney managed to sign 142 exhibition catalogues for Hockney's Photographs, currently on view there. He also signed two posters, four books and nine postcards.

Off campus

Campus, the right-wing "alternative student magazine", has been banned by the student unions of six universities. It also has its objectives in the right. During the last general election campaign Simon Clark, its publisher and editor, sent 100 issues to Brian Monteith, then chairman of the Federation of Conservative Students. The package was opened by Tim Cowell, assistant director of Community Affairs at Conservative Central Office, who impounded it and wrote to Clark saying that he wouldn't want the media to associate *Campus* with the Conservative Party. This is a relief since *Campus* favours such things as "The Heterosexual Decadence Club" and video nasties. However, Monteith claims that "the magazine reflects student life far more than Central Office would like to believe."

PHS

Now that the Government is expected to take on Austin Mitchell's House Buyers' Bill - designed to weaken the conveyancing monopoly of solicitors - it may be possible for the Law Society to come clean on what actually goes on in many solicitors' offices. To date, the society has been hopelessly hamstrung by its inability to acknowledge how much registered conveyancing is done by experienced but unqualified clerks and how conveyancing profits often enable firms to take on other less lucrative work.

To have to admit that, the society would also concede that bills for registered conveyancing - the easy end of the conveyancing market - are not quite as fair and reasonable to the client as required by law, and that the client may be helping to pay for someone else's services in the overall legal spectrum.

Instead, therefore, of warning that the cost of civil and criminal litigation might rise if profits from conveyancing dry up as a result of a Prices and Incomes Board report that solicitors were then making too much money out of conveyancing. Even so, the society has recently had to concede that though 87 per cent of the public seem happy with the services provided by their solicitor, at least 40 per cent think that fees are too high, against 39 per cent who think they are not.

Graham Lee of the society has therefore declared that the Bill which is due to have its second reading in the Commons today, was appallingly drafted and that consumer protection will be "substantially and seriously reduced" if licensed conveyancers are let loose on the public.

While the Bill clearly has some way to go before it is watertight as it needs to be, Lee's complaint is yet another example of the overstatement to which the Chancery Lane bureaucracy has recently been prone. Though the door might be opened to an occasional unscrupulous or inefficient conveyancer - just as there is now the occasional

House-buying: how the Law Society slipped up again

by Alastair Brett

unscrupulous or inefficient solicitor - the state of anarchy and lawlessness visualized by the Law Society is most unlikely.

The Society counters that "easy profits" charge by declaring that prices have come down by about 13 per cent in real terms since scale rates were abolished in 1973 after a Prices and Incomes Board report that solicitors were then making too much money out of conveyancing.

Even so, the society has recently had to concede that though 87 per cent of the public seem happy with the services provided by their solicitor, at least 40 per cent think that fees are too high, against 39 per cent who think they are not.

Interestingly, the large City firms are not as worried by Mitchell's Bill as the smaller provincial practices. This suggests that the really lucrative work these days - where the depth of the client's pocket largely dictates the size of a bill - is found in the company/commercial field not in home-buying.

The irony is that at the very time the Law Society most needs to demonstrate how good it is at policing its own members and protecting the public against over-

charging, it has been rocked by the Glanville Davies scandal, in which it refused to take action against a solicitor and former member of the Law Society council who grossly overcharged a client.

It has also been embarrassed by a call for the resignation of the entire council by the chairman of the British Legal Association on the grounds that it is failing in its duties.

On top of that, the campaign against the conveyancing Bill has been a catalogue of disaster.

The not set in when Christopher Hewett, president of The Law Society, wrote a remarkably intemperate letter to the country's 44,000 practising solicitors on November 14 seeking to impose a three-line whip on the profession to help defeat the bill, but at the same time tacitly admitting that he had not seen the final draft.

He also accused Mitchell and David Tench of the Consumers Association, who had helped draft the Bill, of secrecy over its contents. That in turn led to Tench's accusing the society of "breach of confidence and lack of good faith". Graham Lee made the counter-allegation that the Consumers Association was "disin-

genuous" and its report on house transfers "inaccurate, misleading, and misguided in many of its conclusions."

Worse was to come, for the methods advocated by the Law Society to defeat the Bill - including putting pressure on Conservative MPs to vote against it and attempts to ensure that MPs in favour are not in the House today - have been reported to the Speaker as a possible breach of parliamentary privilege.

The net result of all this is that relations between the Consumers Association and the Law Society have now reached an all-time low; the society has appeared as the last bastion of vested interest while the Consumers Association has been portrayed as the champion of the people.

As one North Country solicitor put it: "The panic language coming out of Chancery Lane is quite indefensible. It has not only embarrassed the profession but has made it look little better than the most reactionary element of the trade union movement."

But leaving aside the Law Society's banana skin path, if Mitchell's Bill gets the successful second reading which it deserves, or the Government takes over the Bill, the society must rise to the challenge. It must put its own house in order and, given the likelihood of the Bill's becoming law, help its members persuade the public to their viewpoint: that solicitors' offices rather than building societies, banks or licensed conveyancers still offer the safest, most reliable and fastest service in the house-buying business, and, most importantly, at a reasonable price.

The author is a solicitor and a legal adviser to The Times.

Roger Boyes reports on Lech Walesa's plans to profit from government failures

Poland: hope behind the price rises



Gdansk queue: despite expectations engendered by the authorities, Poles still have to wait up to two hours to buy basic foods

Warsaw

Today, the thirteenth anniversary of the shooting of Polish workers during riots on the Baltic coast, Lech Walesa is expected to put forward a new programme of opposition. He intends, unless his freedom of movement is again curtailed, to visit the crosses at the Lenin Shipyard which mark the death of those workers, to describe his vision of the future. It is likely to concentrate on discussion, on cementing links between workers and intellectuals and on harnessing people's anger.

The game, Walesa believes, is no longer about winning or losing, but rather working out ways that will make it easier for the government to adopt parts of the Solidarity vision. This is not a struggle that has to be fought on the streets, but rather on the factory floor.

The authorities have tried three principal ways of guaranteeing calm in the country and among the working class. The sum of the strategies is known as "normalization", a technique which in post-1968 Czechoslovakia bought a kind of graveyard peace, and which in post-1956 Hungary brought a couple of years of security police terror and then gradual relaxation. The first instrument is to purchase the compliance of those workers with the strongest industrial muscle - above all the coalminers. They have double pay (though often only after working on Saturdays), double ratios and special shops.

Solidarity activists from Gdansk have been trying to end the privileged isolation of the miners, however, to establish links between the intellectuals and the worker radicals are holding up, but they are under strain. Intellectual opposition and factory protests are taking their separate routes, and this must be ranked as one of the few successes of student upheaval in 1968.

The third instrument of normalization is the banning of intellectual associations that could form platforms of opposition. The intellectuals - who are often as badly off as the workers - a part-time university lecturer will receive 80 zloties an hour, barely enough for a coffee and a bun - have returned to their more limited circles, often based on friendships formed in the years of student upheaval in 1968.

The problem is now one of expectations. By its persistent propaganda of sacrifice, the government has tried to reduce these expectations. But the skilled worker remembers from the early Gdansk years what a government can offer - oranges in the shops, well-stocked supermarkets, services that work.

Perhaps, they say, when national federations are established and become active next year, perhaps then we can fight hard. But nobody much believes in this "perhaps". The new unions were not even consulted in advance before the renewed rationing of butter, and this fact alone condemns them in the eyes of many who remember Solidarity demands.

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WE MEAN WHAT SHE SAYS

By "freezing" the budget rebates to Britain and Germany which were agreed at Stuttgart in June, the European Parliament hopes to put pressure on the Council of Ministers to agree on lasting solutions to the crisis now afflicting the European Community. The Parliament has stopped short of rejecting the budget outright but it has taken action which it hopes will concentrate the minds of member governments and force them to come to terms in the next three months. The intention may be meritorious but the means adopted are neither constructive nor coherent enough for their declared purpose.

The rebate of 750 million ecu (£457 million) due to Britain in 1984 against its over-heavy contributions to the Community's resources in 1983 has been put into what is called the reserve chapter of the Budget. The normal use of the reserve is to receive and hold money in certain cases until such time as the policies for which the money is intended are adopted. It is, in other words, a kind of hypothesised contingency reserve, and when the intended policies are fulfilled, the money is transferred out of it.

In the present instance, a procedure which is part of normal Community financial arrangements is being misused as a political weapon. The Parliament is demanding final decisions on the Community's need to increase its own revenue from member-states, on Britain's and Germany's unfairly high

contributions, to these resources, and on agricultural spending. Given such solutions by the end of March, it will release the money. It is not altogether clear whether the money would be released whatever the details of such an agreement, but the presumption is that, above all else, it wants an agreement of some sort by that date, and one that is durable and comprehensive.

This claim to be seeking the long-term solution which the Council of Ministers sought and failed to find at Athens is on the face of it, in line with Britain's own argument that the crisis has to be settled as a whole and permanently. Yet Parliament's claim to be acting helpfully is hollow since its action discriminates against two individual states, Britain and Germany. In a resolution it passed in November it undertook to avoid such discrimination.

Indeed, logic might suggest that if the object is to force the Council of Ministers to reach agreement it would have been better to reject the Budget altogether. It is tempting to think that if the European Community can only settle its disputes by being brought to a brink, it might be better for it to be brought swiftly to a brink with a terrifying drop rather than to be led haltingly to a number of little brinks which irritate rather than terrify. Yet on balance the British government's view is that it would not have helped the Community face it. This must not be bluff and the other member states need to understand that what is said is meant.

WHEN CARELESS TALK COSTS LIVES

In peace and war information is power. It has always been so, since long before the age of telex or satellite television broadcasts.

It was Aeschylus who first coined the phrase that truth is the first casualty of war, and even Napoleon was heard to observe that "four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets". It is thus the natural instinct of government, at all times, to attempt to harness information to its purposes, and only more so when matters of national security are critically at stake. Journalists are aware that this desire conflicts with the traditional purpose of the press which is, as *The Times* sonorously declared more than 100 years ago, "to obtain the earliest and most correct intelligence of the events of the time, and instantly, by disclosing them, to make them the common property of the nation".

The Beach Committee, whose report on the protection of military information was published yesterday, had to consider the point at which, during an emergency, government, press and people can all roughly agree that the public interest would be better served by some inhibition on the freedom to publish. Most of the British press would accept that, while the public interest is best served by maximum disclosure, this cannot be an absolute condition, since we all recognize that the public interest already requires some statutory restriction on press freedom as, for instance, in the workings of the courts. So the principle does not need to be argued; it is where the line is drawn in the application of that principle that will

always, and rightly, provoke argument and concern.

The Committee observed that, in time of tension, it would not be possible to draw a very precise definition of "military information". Moreover, once the general principle had been accepted that some formal system of information control should be introduced in those circumstances, it must be left to the official authorities in the first instance to determine what information they feel needs to be protected from disclosure. Why should they be trusted to carry out such a task benignly? Why should the press and the public not assume that information will more often be withheld for political or bureaucratic convenience, than to save lives?

What is to prevent this system being introduced unnecessarily, and then being abused?

These questions can never be answered unequivocally. Such a system, in other words, will only work at all if it starts off on a basis of reasonable trust between public, press and government. That trust should be initially secured by an acceptance that no such arrangement could be introduced until there had been a formal state of emergency, which would anyway involve society in a wide range of consequences of which information control would only be one. Beyond that there would have to be trust by the press, cultivated over years of custom and practice, that the military authorities and their political masters operate a minimalist policy on information control, restricting the flow only when genuine operational needs require it in order to save lives.

TOO MUCH OF A SNIFF

The conviction this week in Glasgow of the Raja brothers for the sale to children of made-up "kits" for inhaling fumes from solvents has, naturally enough, led to a burst of press and public attention to glue sniffing. Sadly the fashion - for that is what the practice has become among some adolescents - is not new. It has been on the policy agenda for some time, and in a low-key way the Department of Health has taken steps to alert doctors and nurses to its growth and has convened conferences of policemen and researchers; most recently, and not before time, manufacturers of adhesives and retailers have been brought into the talks. This list, however, has a notable omission: parents.

There is a danger in the kind of moral panic seen this week, in the banner headlines, in the enthusiasm of backbench MPs to leap into the legislative swim, in the unfocused demand for action once a social breakdown has been discovered. The danger is that public disgust gets translated all too readily into a demand for the state to intercede, to absolve us all from the consequences of our and our dependents' actions. Manufacturers and retailers of potentially dangerous products (and there is an array of volatile substances on the shelves of newsagents and supermarkets that could be abused) carry responsibility. But sometimes we leap too quickly for the regulatory shackles. One of the blessings of the shift in attitudes in Britain since 1979 is

a new consciousness of the limits of governmental action in the social sphere. Glue-sniffing, like the abuse by teenagers of other drugs, alcohol or tobacco, demands action in and by families.

The rebuilding of parental responsibility as much as the behavioural problem itself should be the focus of policy.

Over the abuse of solvent based adhesives there must be no complacency. The figures for related deaths and injuries are an undeniable cause for concern, and the Department of Health gave reassuring sign in Mr John Patten's statement yesterday that measures are in hand, albeit within the voluntary framework already established. A programme of education for schools, clinics and shopkeepers is envisaged but the Department is right not to give it the trappings of a crusade and further glamorize the sniffing fashion. Are such measures enough?

It would certainly be wrong to extend the reach of the criminal law to either the act of sniffing or its results (for example new categories of disorderly conduct). The behaviour at issue, Mr Patten noted, varies from being simply a transient phase through which adolescents pass to a sign of a deeper disturbance in personality. Extending the role of social services departments is not required at this point, either. Scottish examples are provocative but have their limits: the Scottish system of children's courts and its tradition of social

work perhaps needed the buttress of the specific statute on solvent abuse passed earlier this year.

Yet as the Government does acknowledge, there may be a case for new law governing the sale of substances with such an obviously harmful effect. The present policy is to pin faith on the cooperation of newsagents and hardware stores which sell glue. The shops concerned are, however, ill-organized; national federations may make injunctions that have no effect in the corner shop. Perhaps the pawky response of the Raja brothers in court - although they knew the commercial benefit of what they were doing, as was illustrated by the fact they kept gallon drums of glue in the basement along with a handy supply of crisp and plastic bags - is the obverse side of that large-scale, and welcome movement of Asian immigrants into small scale retailing.

At present a legal code governs the sale of alcohol to minors; it was recently extended to cover fireworks. Some further extension to cover certain volatile substances used for intoxicating inhalation - they are fairly easy to identify and proscribe - would do no great injury to trade or liberty. Banning the sale of solvents to minors need wreak no great havoc with Airfix construction nor model-building: genuine modellers would need enlist only a parent or other adult or older sibling. The case for such a ban is well worth examining.

Partnership in Antarctica

From Mr Julian Amery, MP for Brighton Pavilion (Conservative)

Sir, Your leading article "South Atlantic Partners" (December 10) makes the constructive suggestion that the Falklands and their dependencies could, without any change of sovereignty, be turned into an Anglo-Argentine base for Antarctic exploration and development. But should you not take the proposal further?

China, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand also have claims on the Antarctic continent and obvious interests due to geographical proximity.

Could we not develop your concept to include these other interested parties, perhaps at the joint invitation of Britain and Argentina? Other signatories of the Antarctic Treaty might also like to take part.

Once the new airfield on the Falklands is fully developed and the harbour facilities improved, the islands might well prove to be the most convenient base available for Antarctic exploration as well as the meeting ground on which cooperation might resolve existing differences between Britain and the Argentine and Chile.

The Antarctic continent is generally thought to be a prolongation of the Andes and the Southern African plateau. There is, therefore, a distinct possibility that the mineral wealth of both may exist under the permafrost. Discovering it and then extracting it would be a challenging task but no more than landing a man on the Moon.

JULIAN AMERY,
112 Eaton Square, SW1.
December 13.

Examination results

From Professor Harvey Goldstein

Sir, The article by Ronald Butt (December 8) and your leader (December 1) on the exam results research of the National Council for Educational Standards (NCES) are critical of Department of Education and Science officials but avoid the main issue.

The real research interest lies in whether the type of school attended (comprehensive, grammar or secondary modern) affects the examination results of pupils with different individual characteristics and backgrounds. In such analyses it is essential to allow for differences in individual achievement prior to secondary school entry to avoid the possibility that examination result differences are merely reflecting entry selection policies.

The NCES research used school average exam results rather than individual data and had no measures of achievement prior to entry. Such deficiencies make it markedly inferior to the recent National Children's Bureau (NCB) study of examination results which had made allowances for individual children and found few important school type differences.

The recently published criticisms of the NCES research by officials at the DES, which now have been substantiated by analyses in Statistical Bulletin 16/83 (*The Times*, December 10) pointed out that the NCES had made inadequate allowances for social class in studying the variation in examination results between Local Education Authorities. Because their measurements are at school or at LEA level only, however, neither the DES nor the NCES analyses can contribute much of value to the debate over school type comparisons.

If further research is to be funded, then it would be more useful, and cheaper, to exploit the NCB data than to pursue the use of school examination results.

Yours faithfully,
HARVEY GOLDSTEIN, Chairman, Department of Mathematics Statistics and Computing, University of London Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, WC1. December 12.

Calke Abbey

From Mr J St Bodfan Gruffydd

Sir, What is "heritage landscape"? The Government is in a great muddle over this. Hitherto the Historic Buildings Council has collected information with a view to "listing" historic gardens and parks, while the Countryside Commission deals with more natural landscapes in national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty.

Gardens and parks are deliberately designed and planned, whereas natural parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty cover the more natural parts of our countryside. The criteria for judging the two types are distinct and different. In considering the Calke ambience, which is very much garden/park landscape, however, the Secretary of State appears to rely on advice of the Countryside Commission.

The writer was sufficiently concerned to examine the problem carefully on the ground. He found unmistakable evidence of careful planning in the disposition of woods and copse shelter belts and tree clumps across the farmed land right to distant horizons, deliberately planned as extensions of the park design. In fact, the distant views are vital factors in the protection of the aesthetic of the park immediately surrounding the abbey.

Nowhere in this beautiful, enclosed landscape is a jarring note to be seen - no pylons, no motorways, no factory farm buildings. Once allow this connected landscape out of the park ownership and there is no saying how soon the beauty and seclusion of this bit of our inheritance might be lost.

The arbitrary delineation of the "heritage landscape" boundaries of

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Chilling prospect of a nuclear winter

From Dr Norman Myers

Sir, I read with interest David Watt's comments on December 9 about the film *The Day After*, and his speculation on whether the scientific prognosis of a nuclear winter is correct. Having participated in the background research in the United States during the past several months, I do not agree that there are many uncertainties in the hypothesis that warrant "understanding caution".

Both the physical and biological teams ran dozens of variations of their computerized models to check their findings, and they concluded that their analyses were reinforced time after time, with virtually no significant variations in the outcome. Whether we consider a 10,000-megaton or only a 1,000-megaton war, the results produce a nuclear winter. In certain circumstances a mere 100 megatons can trigger a similar phenomenon (Britain possesses more than 100 megatons).

The papers, being published in the major American journal *Science*, have undergone unusually rigorous appraisal through extensive peer review. If one can be permitted the phrase, there is an "overkill" of supporting evidence to justify the findings. Several independent research efforts have come up with parallel results.

I quote the summary of the biological paper, authored by 20 leading scientists from several countries. "It is clear that the ecosystem effects alone resulting from a large-scale thermonuclear war could be enough to destroy the current civilisation in at least the northern hemisphere . . . the combined intermediate and long-term effects of nuclear war suggest that eventually there might be no human survivors in the northern hemisphere."

All this reiterates a key question. Can government leaders afford to continue with their present response to the nuclear threat with the new risks of a nuclear winter - precisely at a time when more weapons are being deployed? Or should they not rather consider the alternative risks of taking a closer look at whatever measures are necessary to throw the

State subsidies for the arts

From Mr Robert Jackson, MP for Wantage (Conservative)
Sir, Frank Johnson (December 13) quotes Anthony Beaumont-Dark, MP, asking the familiar question about the arts, "why is it so essential to civilization for the taxpayer to subsidize activities which are so unpopular with the majority of the public?" Let me try to answer.

From an economic point of view the live performing arts is an activity in which technology is static, so that labour productivity is not improved in line with advances in the surrounding economy. It takes just as long, and requires exactly the same equipment and labour, to play a Beethoven symphony today as it did when the work was first performed in 1810. But because the wages paid to non-volunteer musicians inevitably reflect the higher wage levels made possible since that time by technical progress elsewhere in the economy, activities which may have been viable in the market place in 1810 have long since ceased to be so (and even at that time they enjoyed special patronage).

Nevertheless, while the technology of performance has stood still, there has been great technical progress in the communication of performance: radio, gramophone records, television, video. The economic value to Britain of these technologies is indisputable: exports of films and television programmes in 1981 were worth £144m and in the same year earned £30m. There are also the earnings from tourism.

However, because of economic specialization there is no inbuilt mechanism, with the notable exception of the BBC, by which profits earned by communication are directed to nourishing the culture of performance upon which those profits depend. This is why live performance has come to rely on the transfer through state subsidy of a small portion of the taxes levied on those profits.

Of course we have to make decisions, which will be essentially arbitrary, about how much to spend on state subsidies to the arts, just as Prince Esterhazy had to allocate resources between his Kappelmeister and his kitchen. But in a truly educated society it would not be necessary to deploy the sort of means/ends argument of this letter to justify support for activities which are an end in themselves and in the enhancement of the life of all they touch.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT JACKSON,
House of Commons.
December 15.

Prosecution by stores

From Mr Recorder C. W. L. Jervis
Sir, Parliament can so easily create the simple and absolute (i.e. without proof of dishonesty) offence of taking goods from a shop without payment and make it triable only before magistrates. If such an offence is allowed to run side by side with theft, the prosecutor has a choice.

The real thieves are charged with theft; the absent-minded old folk with the lesser offence to which they can plead guilty without fear of social disgrace and take care not to do it again. Much distress and public expense will thereby be saved.

Yours faithfully
C. W. L. JERVIS.
Rox-Vale,
St Buryan,
Penzance,
Cornwall.
December 9.

Missing the bus

From Mrs Fiona E. Hamilton
Sir, May I suggest that a possible solution to the plight of the villagers of Swanton Morley (report, December 9) might be the operation of a route?

As practised in some parts of the West Indies, this consists of a number of taxis licensed to operate on certain agreed routes, with prefixed fares per seat per journey. In this way the cost per person is kept down to a reasonable level and the taxi drivers can be expected to be quick to establish when there is the greatest demand.

Yours faithfully,
FIONA E. HAMILTON,
6 Redburn Street, SW3.
December 9.

Law of Sea Treaty

From Mr Peter Farr

Sir, May I underline the argument of the President of the General Council of British Shipping (November 16)? This country, with a handful of others, hesitates to sign the Law of the Sea Treaty because of the clauses governing seabed mining.

The economic and commercial arguments for proceeding with the mining of deep-sea nodules at any time in this century are looking less and less plausible, however optimistic a view is taken of the prospects for general economic recovery.

During the last few years, the intensity-of-use of the basic industrial metals (the quantity needed for each unit of GDP) has fallen sharply. Some decline has historically happened in advanced economies and mature markets; the recent fall has, however, gone further and more quickly than the historical trend.

The inevitable consequence of this is that forecasts of demand for metals must be lowered.

We have in fact already seen this in the case of steel. As recently as 18 months ago, world demand for crude steel in 1990 was confidently forecast to be around 1,000 million tonnes; few authorities now expect it to be much over 800 million. Forecasts for consumption of

manganese (which is wholly dependent on crude steel output) must consequently be lowered.

The economics of nodule mining depend on the existence of secure markets for all three major nodule constituents - cobalt, nickel and manganese. If demand for any one of them is as insecure as that for manganese, the economic case for nodule mining fails. Is it not therefore time for this country to cease obstructing the interests of those - such as the shipowners - for whom the Law of the Sea Treaty is of immediate and pressing concern?

Yours faithfully,
PETER FARR,
O.W. Roskill Industrial Consultants,
2 Clapham Road, SW9.
November 21.

A fine point

From Mr P. J. Bourke
Sir, Are not an injunction to stop violent protest by CND at Greenham Common, and fines if they do not, as justified and necessary as those against the NGA at Warrington?

Yours faithfully,
P. J. BOURKE,
Waverley,
Piddler's Hill,
Abingdon,
Oxfordshire.
December 12.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

December 15: The Hon. S. Joyal (Secretary of State, Canada) had the honour of being received by Her Queen this morning.

His Excellency Monsieur Ely Ould Alfia was received in audience by the Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following member of the Embassy, who had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty: Monsieur Sid El Meidji (Second Secretary, Chief of Protocol).

Madame Alfia had the honour of being received by the Queen.

Sir Antony Asquith (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) who had the honour of being received by Her Majesty was present, and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Mr Derek Oulton (Clerk of the Crown Clerks and Permanent Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department) had the honour of being received by the Queen.

His Excellency the Hon Sir Victor Garland and Lady Garland were received in farewell audience by Her Majesty and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as High Commissioner for Australia in December 1982.

On Saturday afternoon visited Her Majesty's Customs and Excise at King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London, EC3.

Having been received by the Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise (Mr A. M. Fraser), Her Majesty toured the Tertiary Exhibition and met members of the staff.

Madame Susan Hussey, Mr Robert Fellowes, and Lieutenant-Colonel Blair Stewart-Wilson were in attendance.

Memorial services

Sir John and Lady Fisher

The Duke of Edinburgh, Permanent Master of the Shipwrights' Company, was represented by the Prime Warden, Sir Charles Alexander, at a memorial service for Sir John and Lady Fisher held yesterday at St Lawrence Jewry-next-Guildhall.

The Rev. Basil Watson officiated. Mr R. W. Tooke, President of the General Shipwrights' Shipmen and Mr David Clark read the lessons. Mr William Eccles, Chairman and Chief Executive of James Fisher and Sons, gave an address and Miss Lilli Palmer paid a tribute. Among others present were:

Major and Mrs George Blaxland, Mrs Bray, Dr Janet East, Mr Andrew East, Mrs D. Stokes, Mr A. Stokes, Miss J. Stokes, Mr P. G. T. Turner, Mr and Mrs R. G. Turner, Mrs M. Roberts.

Others present representing the Netherlands Ambassador and Cambria Viscount, Rutherford of Doxford, Viscount Rivers, Sir John Rutherford, Sir Eric Bowes, Mr Patrick Shovelton (Admiral of Shipping), Rear-Admiral M. Morgan-Campbell, C. H. Bayliss (Admiral and Sheriff of Cheshire), Mr. G. Carruthers, Mr. A. J. Cooke, Dr Denis Redhead,

M. Jackson, Mr. Andrew Watson, Mr S. G. Williams, Mr. J. V. Williams, Mr. J. H. Newby, Mr. A. Dickson, Mr. and Mrs. Compton, Mr. Michael Whittle, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Colvin, Mr. Michael Whittle, Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Kenyon and Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Everard, Mrs. E. Everard, and Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Kenyon.

[ADVERTISEMENT]

Must the lights stay dim for Elsie this Christmas

She's a plucky 81 year-old, but this Christmas she faces what will seem "the loneliest day of her life". No family, because she has none left. And no-one to visit her. All the happy gatherings will be in other people's homes, and the lights in other windows. Christmas seems a bleak day when you're lonely and forgotten in a chilly room.

Help us change that. With another Day Centre that brings old people the good companionship and friendly help of a place where they can meet every day of the year.

£5 will bring practical help to a lonely old person

£25 will assist a Day Centre

£100 will help put a Minibus on the road

£100 will bring Christmas joy to many who would otherwise have nothing.

CHRISTMAS IS A TIME FOR SHARING AND CARING.

Please give generously this Christmas and, if you can manage it - send early please, because your donation will be put to use immediately.

To: Hon. Treasurer, The Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room TI009, FREEPOST 30, London W1E 7JZ (no stamp needed).

Please let us know if you would like your gift used for a particular purpose.

COURT AND SOCIAL

The Duke of Edinburgh arrived at Wigton Station in the Royal Train this morning and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Cumbria (Sir Charles Graham, Bt).

His Royal Highness then visited the premises of British Sidac Ltd (Managing Director, Mr W. Lovett) and, after opening the Sales and Marketing Office Block, toured the Cellulose Film Plant and was entertained at luncheon.

After luncheon, The Duke of Edinburgh visited St Cuthbert's Boys' Club (Founder and Leader, Sister Philomena).

The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon attended a Service in Carlisle Cathedral in aid of the Restoration Appeal and was received by the Dean (Very Reverend J. H. Churchill).

His Royal Highness later opened the Kintmon Barn senior citizens' meeting place in Carlisle.

Lieutenant-Commander Andrew Wynn, RN was in attendance.

The Princess Anne, Mrs. Mark Phillips, President of the Save the Children Fund, this afternoon, on behalf of the Fund, accepted a motor car from the Ford Motor Company at the Save the Children Fund Headquarters, Mary Datche House, London, SE5.

Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Gibbs was in attendance.

The Queen was represented by the Baroness Trumpton (Baroness in Waiting) at the Memorial Service for Sir Tom Hickinbotham (formerly Commander-in-Chief and Commander-in-Chief of Aden) which was held in the Chapel of St Michael and St George, St. Paul's Cathedral this morning.

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Sir Charles Alexander, (Prime Warden of the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights) at the Memorial Service for Sir John Fisher which was held at St Lawrence Jewry-next-Guildhall this morning.

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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY
Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Tight money rein could give Reagan rough ride

The White House view is that the American economy will grow about 4.5 per cent next year. This projection has still to be stamped by President Reagan who will release it and other estimates in his 1985 budget message to Congress early in February. Administration economists working on the budget are convinced that this rate of growth can be achieved provided the US Federal Reserve Board does not keep money growth on too tight a rein. Their fears are not without foundation. The influential Mr Henry Kaufman of Salomon Brothers predicted yesterday that the Federal Reserve would move quickly in 1984 to tighten monetary policy. This will result, in his opinion, in a slowing of economic growth until late 1984 and an erratic rise in US interest rates.

For several weeks senior Administration officials have expressed fears that the Fed may already have tightened policy too much in its effort to prevent a rekindling of inflation. They have warned the White House that because of the considerable length of time the economy needs to respond to the central bank's actions a sharp slowdown could become apparent in November, just two weeks before the presidential elections, when figures are released for the quarter ending September 30.

Mr Donald Regan, the US Treasury Secretary, reflected these fears in a speech this week at the Washington Press Club, in which he said: "The Fed wants to cool this economy before it overheats and we get inflation back. They have been tightening for the last six months. My concern is that they not overdo it."

The Administration economists are also reported to have forecast a huge federal budget deficit in the neighbourhood of \$200 billion. The prospect of a series of mammoth budget deficits is one reason why Mr Kaufman is looking for a rise in interest rates. He has lent his voice to calls for action to reduce the deficit. President Reagan, however, has ruled out a significant tax increase in his next budget. He said yesterday that he did not intend to raise taxes in 1984 but he left the door open for some sort of a "tax package" in later years.

Although both the president and Administration economists have played down the importance of Federal budget deficits, they were singled out specifically by M Jacques De Larosière, head of the International Monetary Fund, in a speech in Chicago yesterday. M De Larosière said a primary aim of the IMF in the coming year would be to force member nations to place special emphasis in reducing fiscal deficits which threaten to "crowd out" private investors just as the global recovery gathers momentum.

That should please Mrs Thatcher.

Stalemate at the Savoy

Trusthouse Forte went to great lengths yesterday to emphasize that it was not its current intention to make a further offer for Savoy Hotel. This rider came after THF, in agreement with the Takeover Panel, had disclosed that it had bought from the investment arm of S G Warburg, THF's merchant bank, a further 1.137

million Savoy A shares. The deal was struck on Friday and most of it was executed outside the market. THF would not reveal the price.

The additional shares raise THF's interest in the Savoy equity to 69 per cent. The number of votes it has rises from 40.2 per cent of 42.3 per cent.

Savoy Hotel's two-tier equity structure leaves THF in a unique position: two-thirds of Savoy profits and dividends fall to THF, but control still rests with Sir Hugh Wontner and the Savoy board who would prefer Lord Forte to fold up his tent and leave their gate. In March two years ago Lord Forte, (then Sir Charles) bid £58m and then £67m for Savoy Hotel - the company also owns the Connaught, Claridge's and the Berkeley - but the citadel did not fall. Nor will it as long as the B shares, which make up a small proportion of the share capital but a large part of the voting power (the A shares have a tenth of a vote whereas every five B shares carry 10 votes) remain in firm and friendly hands. The most important of these belong to Dame Bridget D'Olly Carte, but Lady Ellerker's holding is the critical one. If Lord Forte could charm her from her, he could be within an ace of winning the game.

Lord Forte appears to be as determined as ever to own Savoy Hotel but he has admitted that the present situation cannot continue indefinitely. It is a cosy stalemate for THF and frustrating for the Savoy. The good so far that has come out of the clash is a much more determined and commercially successful Savoy management.

Invisibles: the unauthorized text

Two versions of a Department of Trade and Industry-sponsored report, *Success in Invisibles*, will be published today. The first, about 25 pages long, comes from the DTI itself. The second, from the author, Mr Andrew Tessler, is three times as long and contains criticisms that do not appear in the official text.

The report deals with all invisibles but it concentrates on the most dynamic sector of all: the professions - consulting engineers, architects, management consultancies, surveyors, lawyers. Their overseas earnings have increased twentyfold in just over 10 years and are now worth £1 billion a year. At the present rate of growth, they would be worth £2 billion in six years.

The chances of that happening, Mr Tessler argues, are being diminished by the Government itself through the tax system.

Firms largely made up of partners are taxed on a personal basis. Nationalized industries, which have developed their own agencies are alleged to be undercutting private sector firms by unfair means.

Mr Tessler found that British partnerships which find it virtually impossible to raise venture capital have to spend between £60,000 and £80,000 each time they want to bid for a new contract overseas. These down-payments, without any guarantee of success or return, have to be met out of taxed income. He cites instances where tax is levied twice on the same earnings.

That should please Mrs Thatcher.

Request by Allianz rejected

Eagle Star has given a final rejection to requests from Allianz Versicherungen, the West German insurance group, for further information about its business. Allianz had said that failure to supply the information could result in its offering Eagle Star shareholders a lower price for their shares.

But Eagle Star's chairman, Sir Denis Mountain has declined to disclose details of the company's 1984 budget, saying it was impossible to quantify the effect of a change of control on the group's business and that provision of the figures could lead to them being treated with a degree of accuracy that would be inappropriate.

• The pay of Mr Michael Hollingbery, the chairman and chief executive of Comet Group, the electrical retailer, increased from £72,000 to £12,000, excluding pension contributions, last year. The salary of the unnamed highest paid director increased from £83,000 to £194,000. The increases follow last year's record profits of £19.5m.

• Unipart's profits increased from £15.3m to a record £23.6m in the first half of the year on a turnover up from £78.7m to £85.5m. The interim dividend has been increased from 2.5p to 2.75p.

Investors' Notebook, page 19

WALL STREET

Losses increase

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Losses were slowly increasing in early trading on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down by more than 6 points to 1,240 and the Transportation Average had fallen by about 5 points to 589. General Motors fell ½ to 73½, Honeywell was off ½ to 134½, Texas Oil down ¾ at 42½, Getty Oil up 1½ to 78½, Exxon ¼ lower at 37½, International Business Machines off ½ at 120½ and Union Carbide unchanged at 62½.

Private producers attack Minister

Steel sell-off 'going too slowly'

By Edward Townsend
Industrial Correspondent

Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Industry, yesterday clashed with Britain's private sector steel industry over allegations that the Government was dragging its feet over the promised privatization of the British Steel Corporation.

Mr Lamont was criticized at the annual lunch of the British Independent Steel Producers' Association by the president, Mr Peter Lee. Mr Lee said that apart from some welcome exceptions, the government had made little progress in returning the steel industry to private hands.

He said that despite the understandable difficulties, the need for Britain to have a viable and efficient steel-producing industry, independent of public subsidy, was as vital as ever. "We believe that the failure of the Government to ensure that priority was being given to its stated policy has made the task more difficult and progress has been unnecessarily slow."

Mr Lamont, who is representing the Government in the latest round of European Community talks aimed at

Reed questions bid rebuff

By Jonathan Clare

Reed Stenhouse has told shareholders in Stenhouse Holdings to ask their board and its financial advisers why they have rejected Reed's bid terms when they said during negotiations that they were "recommendable".

The suggestion by Reed plays on the uncertainties within the Stenhouse board which culminated in the resignation of Mr Bert Houghton, a former chairman, last week because he believed the terms should be accepted.

Reed also tells shareholders

in a document despatched yesterday to ask what advice was given to the board by Noble Grossart, the merchant bank. Noble is 20 per cent owned by Stenhouse and is its long-term adviser. But Stenhouse is currently using J. Henry Schroder Wragg's services.

Reed, a Canadian insurance broker, has bid £53m for Stenhouse, the Glasgow-based broker.

Yesterday Schroder said the offer could not be recommended because negotiations "never got to terms"

ICI sells stake in Vantona

By Michael Clark

ICI finally severed its connections with the textile industry yesterday by selling its entire stake in Vantona Viyella.

The group is selling 7 million shares in the company at 148p each, amounting to just under 20 per cent of the total issued equity and valuing the entire stake at £10.36m. The shares are being placed with financial institutions by the merchant bank N. M. Rothschild and the broker Hoare Govett.

ICI obtained its shares in Vantona Viyella when Carrington Viyella, in which it owned a sizable stake, merged with Mr David Alliance's Vantona earlier this year.

Shares of ICI slipped 4p to 650p on the news, but later recovered to close only 2p down at 652p. The sale met with mixed reactions in the City, with observers expressing surprise at ICI's timing.

Meanwhile, talks have once again been postponed between the BSC and United States Steel over the proposed controversial joint venture to sell Scottish steel slabs to United States Steel's Fairless Finishing mill.

A final decision was expected after a meeting on Wednesday in New York between Mr Robert Haslam, BSC chairman, and Mr David Roderick, chairman of United States Steel. But,

according to a brief BSC statement, "a final outcome has not yet emerged".

A conclusion is expected to be reached in January.

Steel production in Britain's public and private sectors averaged 310,000 tonnes a week in November, a rise of 2.5 per cent on the previous month and 31.6 per cent up on a year ago.

For the first 11 months of the year, output averaged 292,200 tonnes a week, a rise of 7 per cent on the depressed levels of 1982.

New Argentine government calls for debt moratorium

By Peter Wilson-Smith and Bailey Morris

Argentina's new Government has asked its commercial bank creditors for a moratorium on debt payments, it emerged yesterday. However, there was confusion in banking circles over the exact nature of the request.

Reports from Buenos Aires said that Argentina wanted a six-month delay on payments on its \$40 billion external debt. But bankers in London suggested that a 90-day moratorium on principle payments was more likely.

Bankers interpreted the action of the civilian government, which formally assumed power only on Saturday, as a prelude to a new round of debt-rescheduling negotiations, on which the new ministers wanted to stamp their mark.

London banking sources said that Argentina would want to defer signing public-sector debt-rescheduling agreements nego-

tiated by the previous government. It was likely to press for more favourable terms on the refinancing of \$4 billion to \$5 billion of public-sector debt maturities due in 1984 and 1985.

Senor Bernardo Grispan, Economy Minister, is reported to have said in Buenos Aires yesterday that Argentina would postpone any new payments on its foreign debt until June 30, 1984. By that date, the country hoped to have completed its 1984

manuscripts.

Although debt negotiation with the Argentinians have caused considerable problems for the banks over the past year, bankers are reasonably relaxed about reaching new agreements with the civilian government. Indeed, the return to civilian rule has been seen as a hopeful sign.

But the road to stability has only just begun. The government must move quickly to restore order to a chaotic economy plagued not only by a big foreign debt but also by a lack of discipline spending priorities and by hidden costs from arms purchases made by the former military junta.

This was the assessment of senior US officials who returned this week from the inauguration ceremonies in Buenos Aires with a cautiously optimistic view of what lies ahead for President Raúl Alfonsín's government.

US officials said that they were impressed by the his seasoned economic team and by his strong political commitment to a tough economic austerity programme designed to halve the huge deficit, estimated at 14 per cent of the country's gross domestic product.

Top priorities of the new government according to Mr McNamara will be to improve relations with commercial banks, which hold the bulk of its \$40 billion debt, and to put in place an economic programme would be acceptable to the International Monetary Fund.

This would involve settlement through either legislation or court action, of a series of difficult legal questions which poisoned Argentina's relations with its foreign debtors during the Falklands war. Mr McNamara said.

It appears that the new government would need short-term financial help of only \$3 billion in new commercial funds in order to get the economy back on its feet before undertaking a full-scale restructuring of its outstanding foreign debt, he said.

Pound rally helps gilts

A recovering pound put new life into the gilts market yesterday. Despite being down by about 25p early in the day, gilts closed 12p up on the strength of sterling. The pound itself gained 55 points against the dollar at \$1.4225.

Meanwhile, the FT Index put up a firm performance, despite a weak opening on Wall Street. It closed 1.7 up at 752.8. Market report, page 18

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index	752.8	up 1.7
FT Gilts	82.26	down 0.04
FT AB Shares	463.65	up 0.36
Bargainbox	19.82	
Datastream USM Leaders Index	25.17	down 0.17
New York Dow Jones Average	(latest)	1241.26
down 5.39		
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index	9462.48	up 61.26
Hongkong Hang Seng Index	869.88	down 4.88

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE	
Sterling	
\$1.4225 up 55pts	
Index 82.0 up 0.2	
DM 3.9400 up 0.0175	
Fr 12.0050 up 0.0025	
Yen 334.50 up 1.25	
Dollar	
Index 130.7 down 0.1	
DM 2.7670 up 0.0020	
NEW YORK LATEST	
Sterling \$1.4235	
Dollar DM 2.7705	
INTERNATIONAL	
ECU \$0.754744	
SDR \$0.733505	

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:	
Bank base rates 9	
Finance houses base rate 9½	
Discount market loans week fixed 8½	
3 month interbank 9½-9¾	
Euro-currency rates:	
3 month dollar 10½-10¾	
3 month DM 6½-6½	
3 month Fr 13½-13½	
US rates:	
Bank prime rate 11.00	
Fed funds 9½	
Treasury long bond 99½-99¾	

GOLD

APPOINTMENTS

New chiefs at Banking Corporation

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation: Mr William Purvis, at present executive director Banking, will succeed Mr P. E. Hammond as deputy chairman next May. Mr Robert Farrell, at present group staff controller, will join the board, also in May, as an executive director. Mr Hammond will retire at the ordinary yearly general meeting on May 8.

Martin The Newagent: Mr Bill Mitchell will join the board as personnel director from January 16.

Crescent Japan Investment Trust: Mr Ian Macdonald will join the boards of Crescent Japan and New Tokyo Investment Trust on January 1.

The English Association Trust: Mr James Cave will be a director from January 19. He will be in charge of the investment division and will be the managing director of The English Association Investment Management.

Maersk Company: Mr A. B. Marshall has been appointed vice-chairman.

Wells Fargo Banks: Mr Richard Borda, executive vice-president, has been made head of the Europe/Africa/Middle East division, headquartered in London. He succeeds Mr William Wright.

Save & Prosper Investment Management: Mr Chris Tracey is to be managing director.

Argyll Group: Following the completion of the merger of Argyll Foods and Amalgamated Distilled Products, Mr C. D. Smith will be group financial controller and company secretary, and Mr P. A. Frendo, group financial controller of Argyll Foods and finance director of Argyll Stores in place of Mr Smith. Mr J. P. Kinch is appointed assistant group company secretary of Argyll Group and company secretary of Argyll Foods and of Amalgamated Distilled Products.

National Bedding Federation: Mr Patrick Quigley has become chief executive.

Singer & Friedlander: Mr B. D. F. Mansfield has been appointed a managing director and Mr W. H. Wright a local director from January 1.

Opposition grows to the President's unwillingness to tackle the huge US deficit

The world waits for Reagan to defuse an economic time bomb

Martin Feldstein (left) and Robert Dole (centre): two vociferous critics of Reagan

How long is too long to wait in correcting the crippling world effects of a huge United States budget deficit projected at \$200 billion and above for the next five years?

Four months ago, flushed with the success of recovery, no one in Washington was asking this provocative question.

But in recent weeks, as concern has grown, the US deficit has come to be regarded as an economic time bomb which must be defused before it explodes.

But when? Can action by Congress and the Reagan Administration wait until after the elections in 1985 as the President has proposed? Increasingly, and in louder voices, a bi-partisan group of officials and economists has said no.

What is wrong with waiting until 1985 to take the politically unpopular step of raising taxes and cutting domestic programmes to reduce the deficit?

In the words of Mr Martin Feldstein, the President's outspoken economics adviser, the problem is this: "The longer you wait, the more difficult it is for the economy to absorb the kinds of changes in government spending and taxes."

Enacting the budget in 1985 rather than now would inevitably mean a slow phase-in of deficit reductions and, therefore, a more unbalanced recovery. Mr Feldstein said. This would lead to less capital formation, bigger increases in the national debt and, eventually, higher interest rates.

It is precisely these fears which fuel the growing opposition among Republicans who

swept to victory during the last presidential elections on the promise of a balanced budget and sustained economic growth.

Mr Robert Dole, the powerful chairman of the Senate finance committee, is prominent among them. Despite strong White House opposition, he held an unusual set of hearings last week to focus national attention on the threatened budget deficits.

According to Mr Feldstein: "Just to finance that additional interest would require a tax increase at 1988 levels of 15-20 per cent on top of the personal income taxes which are already in place."

For these outspoken remarks, Mr Feldstein was very nearly

fired a fortnight ago by White House officials who ordered him to keep his views to himself in the months ahead.

But other equally prominent economists have taken up this cause.

Mrs Alice Rivlin, an econo-

mist who recently stepped down as director of the Congressional Budget Office, said: "Waiting until 1985 to take action on the deficit entails the risk of having to wait until after the next new recession. By 1985, growth will have slowed substantially and perhaps even turned negative."

Mrs Rivlin's successor, Mr Rudy Penner, a highly respected Republican economist with

elsewhere, there is the perception that President Reagan is playing his political fiddle while the US economy burns. They note that in doing nothing, the President has repeatedly stated his belief that the deficit would go away in time as the recovery continues.

The President's critics fear that the recovery will go up in smoke if action is not taken now to reduce the deficits in 1986 and the years beyond.

They foresee a steady rise in the deficit to \$280 billion by fiscal 1989. Interest payments on this extra debt alone are estimated to be in the neighbourhood of \$30 bn - \$100 bn a year.

"I regard the deficit as the most important domestic issue facing Congress and I fear there is a real danger of political stalemate in the coming year," Mr Dole said.

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Trippier backs expansion fund

By Jonathan Clare
Mr David Trippier, the minister for small business, has given a powerful personal endorsement to a new community-based fund set up to pump cash into local businesses in North East Lancashire using the Business Expansion Scheme.

Mr Trippier said that the new fund, which is in his own constituency of Rossendale and Darwen, is the first fund to be set up in the spirit of the Chancellor's intentions when he announced the Business Expansion Scheme had so far been monopolised by the big funds. He hoped that by February there would be two or three more locally-based funds set up under the initiative of local enterprises agencies.

Since the Business Expansion Scheme was announced last March, 27 City-based funds have been set up to take advantage of the generous tax concessions it makes available. But many of these schemes have been criticised for the high management charges, the cost to the companies which use their cash and frequent demands for options over the shares and a seat on the board. The new fund, the Valleys of Enterprise Trust Fund (VET), will be run by local businessmen who draw no salary for this work. It intends to invest £500,000 in local firms. Investors will pay no initial management charge, although there will be a half-yearly administration charge of one per cent.

The VET scheme has been set up jointly by the Rossendale enterprise Trust and the Blackburn and District Enterprise Trust.

Mr Trippier also suggested that it might be possible to set up similar schemes in rural areas such as the South West, through the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas (Cosira).

The VET scheme already has £250,000 promised and expects to be fully invested by April when the tax year ends. Individuals are expected to invest between £20,000 and £100,000.

Most of the big funds only consider investments in "big" small firms, unless they are particularly exciting "green-field" projects which carry high risks and high rewards. They would not normally invest less than £100,000 which cuts off finance to smaller firms.



Small retailers set for a fairer deal

By Derek Harris

There is good news this week for the small retailer who feels that he gets far less attention from government than the manufacturers who are in the minority among small businesses.

He was chairing this week in London the third of five regional conferences organised by the EEC which could go some way to shifting the balance in favour of the shopkeepers with a prospective impact in Britain as much as elsewhere in the Community. It comes as the British Government has indicated in its White Paper on regional policy that more help will now be channelled towards the services sector although how far this will have yet to be clarified.

EEC financial aid programmes will for the first time cover the service industries, including retailing.

There also appears to be a fair wind, with endorsement by the Council of Ministers still to come, for a code of conduct on small and medium-sized businesses which would lay an obligation on Brussels and national governments to make sure that policies do not actively harm small business operations. The moves were welcomed as a long overdue shift of policies by Mr Douglas Herbison, secretary general of the Euro-

pean Confederation of Retailing, who is also manager of the NCT. He said: "Small businesses are being squeezed out, including the small specialist retailers which offer things the big chains cannot."

He argued there is a social argument for positive discrimination in favour of the smaller outlets, with specific allocations to them in shopping developments with reasonable rent and rate levels.

Numbers of small retailers have been falling for years, with the rate of decline quickening in the seventies, followed by some limited evidence of a slower decline over the past three years, according to John Dawson, professor of distributive studies at the University of Strirling.

The dynamism of the sector comes out in the high annual birthrate of 25,000. But death rates are nearly the highest for any sector.

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Corbiere is so pleasing in defeat

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

Corbiere, this year's Grand National winner did not make a triumphant return in the Burnley Handicap Steeplechase at Haydock Park yesterday, but anybody seeing his trainer Jenny Pitman's face bathed in smiles afterwards could have been forgiven for thinking that he had just done so. In fact, Corbiere finished third to Bush Guide and Chungolo beaten 16 lengths, but Mrs Pitman was every bit as delighted as if he had won.

Commenting on the race afterwards, she said: "Training him on the firm ground at home has been difficult this autumn. The object was to come here and get a good run into him without anything going wrong and that is what we have achieved."

Deputising for Corbiere's regular rider, Ben de Haan, who was injured in a fall at Nottingham last Saturday, the champion jockey, John Francome, said that, he too, was pleased with the feel that Corbiere had given him, considering that it was slippery after a night of heavy rain.

Looking at Corbiere in the paddock beforehand, I formed the impression that he was big and in need of the race, having done particularly well physically, in the eight months that he has been off the course, since Liverpool. He is now firmly on course for another crack at the Welsh National, which he won last season.

Mrs Pitman will also run Burrough Hill Lad in the Chepstow race, and he is likely to have another race between now and then, either at Lingfield Park or at Worcester. Jacko, who finished fourth yesterday, is also earmarked for the big Chepstow race on December 27.

Bush Guide, who was never entered for the Welsh National, was well ridden by his devoted 24-year-old owner, Valerie Alder. Bar one mistake on the second circuit, Bush Guide repaid the compliment to the young lady, who rides without carrying a whip. With this result in the bag, Valerie and her father, John, now have their eyes upon the Eider Steeplechase at Newcastle next year. A crack at the Grand National will be delayed until 1985.

Reveling in the softer con-



John Francome and Corbiere get together for the first time at Haydock yesterday

ditions underfoot Bush Guide led all the way yesterday. Racing away from the stands for the last time the top weight, Ashley House, looked a big danger but Corbiere was going so well and jumping so brilliantly. But Bush Guide and Miss Alder refused to give up the initiative and by the time that Ashley House made a bad mistake at the last fence he was a spent force. Nevertheless, my lasting impression was the way that Corbiere was running on strongly.

The brilliant way that Michael Dickinson's novices are taught to jump continue to amaze after Red Mills had given an almost flawless display of the top weight, Cardinal Flower who has two victories over today's course and distance to his name. Now, he also meets Palatinate who beat him at Cheltenham in November. But Bright Oasis did not wear blinkers on that occasion and Bailey regrets not putting them on him then, bearing in mind that he excelled two seasons ago when wearing them.

When Bright Oasis was beaten by Miners Lodge at Newbury in November, it was plain as a pikestaff that his stamina gave out at the end of the two and half miles. He looked like cruising in halfway up the straight. The shorter distance of today's race should suit him.

Hopeful Saint, a useful hurdler last season, but a horse who looked every inch a steeplechase in the making even then, is my selection for the Merry Novices Steeplechase. Earlier in the day his stable companion, W Six Times, will be hard to catch in the Red Alligator Handicap Steeplechase.

To sit down and watch a race on the telly with a cup of coffee seems a small thing, especially when, with the dawn of cable television breaking, there is likely to be more opportunity than ever for the punter to see what colour horse he has backed, but the law says this is simply not on.

Sir Ian has been known to have the odd bet himself. "If you are well off, you have an account with a bookmaker, and you telephone your bet over, and then watch the race in comfort on your television at home. Others are not so fortunate, and I think this is unfair and unreasonable."

The bill he is introducing is an enabling bill, which, if passed, will allow the Home Secretary, if he likes the idea to put forward changes in the regulations governing betting

profligate gamblers to ruin. "There has been a lot of confusion about this reform - people think bookmakers want to start serving alcohol. This is not the case," Tom Kelly, director general of the bookies group, the Betting Office Licensees Association (BOLA), said.

Sir Ian said: "If people want to gamble, they will do so anyway, so I don't see why they shouldn't do so in reasonably civilized circumstances. It has always been OK for the middle classes to gamble in comfort, think it should be OK for everyone else." His bill is not, he reckons, a forlorn hope. In fact, he reckons it is something like an even-money chance.

Simon Barnes

Evergreen Even Melody lingers on

Even Melody showed that at 14 he is as sprightly as ever by winning the Christmas Tree Handicap Chase at Southwell yesterday. After the old horse battled home by half a length from Peacock Ade, his trainer, Neville Crump, said: "I wish I had his guts - I don't know who is the older, him or me."

At the final ditch, three from home, the 3-1 favourite, Capstern, had brought down Double Step and Oyster Pond, at which point Even Melody went in front. Even Melody, Last King and Spirit, rump added: "If he had jumped no better, it would have been easier. He's an amazing horse and he's every day of his life. Two years ago I was going to retire him,

and he promptly won three on the telly."

Peter Dever needs only one more winner to have his right to claim reduced to 40 after a double on runners.

Brian McMahon, who is enjoying a good run, including Greenacres, by giving him eighth-finner of the day, the six-year-old son of the selling hurdle, survived a blunder at the last flight to beat the 11-4 favourite, Hattemas, by eight lengths.

Mick Easterby, successful with the 3-1 shot, Mr Snugger, in the Christmas Stacking Handicap Chase, was denied a double when the 6-4 on favourite, Skewby, fell at the last fence in the novices chase at Adelaide and Brisbane Cups. Quince was unplaced on January 3.

Doncaster

Gong, Good to Soft, conditions 1-3, 1000m, 10.2, 20.2. 12.30 LOTTERY CHASE (Handicap: Handicap: £1,257; 2m 150yd) (10 runners)

1. DUNWICH (Ed) D. Naylor 10-12 Mr D Williams

2. ONLY MONEY (G Richards) G Richards 11-12 P. Doherty

3. UNSUNG (D) D. Thompson 9-11-12 P. Barton

4. FOREST LODGE (D) D. Robinson 9-10-11 P. Barton

5. BIG APPLE (P Curd) P. Curd 8-10-10 J. O'Brien

6. TANDEM (P) P. Curd 8-10-10 J. O'Brien

7. 4309P VERY FRIENDLY (Deviles Dog) P. Bayan 7-10-0 T. West

8. ONLY MONEY, 3rd, 2nd Runners, 7 Big Apple, 10 Bowshot, Unsung, 14 Forest Lodge, 15-20, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-89, 90-94, 95-99, 100-104, 105-109, 110-114, 115-119, 120-124, 125-129, 130-134, 135-139, 140-144, 145-149, 150-154, 155-159, 160-164, 165-169, 170-174, 175-179, 180-184, 185-189, 190-194, 195-199, 200-204, 205-209, 210-214, 215-219, 220-224, 225-229, 230-234, 235-239, 240-244, 245-249, 250-254, 255-259, 260-264, 265-269, 270-274, 275-279, 280-284, 285-289, 290-294, 295-299, 300-304, 305-309, 310-314, 315-319, 320-324, 325-329, 330-334, 335-339, 340-344, 345-349, 350-354, 355-359, 360-364, 365-369, 370-374, 375-379, 380-384, 385-389, 390-394, 395-399, 400-404, 405-409, 410-414, 415-419, 420-424, 425-429, 430-434, 435-439, 440-444, 445-449, 450-454, 455-459, 460-464, 465-469, 470-474, 475-479, 480-484, 485-489, 490-494, 495-499, 500-504, 505-509, 510-514, 515-519, 520-524, 525-529, 530-534, 535-539, 540-544, 545-549, 550-554, 555-559, 560-564, 565-569, 570-574, 575-579, 580-584, 585-589, 590-594, 595-599, 600-604, 605-609, 610-614, 615-619, 620-624, 625-629, 630-634, 635-639, 640-644, 645-649, 650-654, 655-659, 660-664, 665-669, 670-674, 675-679, 680-684, 685-689, 690-694, 695-699, 700-704, 705-709, 710-714, 715-719, 720-724, 725-729, 730-734, 735-739, 740-744, 745-749, 750-754, 755-759, 760-764, 765-769, 770-774, 775-779, 780-784, 785-789, 790-794, 795-799, 800-804, 805-809, 810-814, 815-819, 820-824, 825-829, 830-834, 835-839, 840-844, 845-849, 850-854, 855-859, 860-864, 865-869, 870-874, 875-879, 880-884, 885-889, 890-894, 895-899, 900-904, 905-909, 910-914, 915-919, 920-924, 925-929, 930-934, 935-939, 940-944, 945-949, 950-954, 955-959, 960-964, 965-969, 970-974, 975-979, 980-984, 985-989, 990-994, 995-999, 1000-1004, 1005-1009, 1010-1014, 1015-1019, 1020-1024, 1025-1029, 1030-1034, 1035-1039, 1040-1044, 1045-1049, 1050-1054, 1055-1059, 1060-1064, 1065-1069, 1070-1074, 1075-1079, 1080-1084, 1085-1089, 1090-1094, 1095-1099, 1100-1104, 1105-1109, 1110-1114, 1115-1119, 1120-1124, 1125-1129, 1130-1134, 1135-1139, 1140-1144, 1145-1149, 1150-1154, 1155-1159, 1160-1164, 1165-1169, 1170-1174, 1175-1179, 1180-1184, 1185-1189, 1190-1194, 1195-1199, 1200-1204, 1205-1209, 1210-1214, 1215-1219, 1220-1224, 1225-1229, 1230-1234, 1235-1239, 1240-1244, 1245-1249, 1250-1254, 1255-1259, 1260-1264, 1265-1269, 1270-1274, 1275-1279, 1280-1284, 1285-1289, 1290-1294, 1295-1299, 1300-1304, 1305-1309, 1310-1314, 1315-1319, 1320-1324, 1325-1329, 1330-1334, 1335-1339, 1340-1344, 1345-1349, 1350-1354, 1355-1359, 1360-1364, 1365-1369, 1370-1374, 1375-1379, 1380-1384, 1385-1389, 1390-1394, 1395-1399, 1400-1404, 1405-1409, 1410-1414, 1415-1419, 1420-1424, 1425-1429, 1430-1434, 1435-1439, 1440-1444, 1445-1449, 1450-1454, 1455-1459, 1460-1464, 1465-1469, 1470-1474, 1475-1479, 1480-1484, 1485-1489, 1490-1494, 1495-1499, 1500-1504, 1505-1509, 1510-1514, 1515-1519, 1520-1524, 1525-1529, 1530-1534, 1535-1539, 1540-1544, 1545-1549, 1550-1554, 1555-1559, 1560-1564, 1565-1569, 1570-1574, 1575-1579, 1580-1584, 1585-1589, 1590-1594, 1595-1599, 1600-1604, 1605-1609, 1610-1614, 1615-1619, 1620-1624, 1625-1629, 1630-1634, 1635-1639, 1640-1644, 1645-1649, 1650-1654, 1655-1659, 1660-1664, 1665-1669, 1670-1674, 1675-1679, 1680-1684, 1685-1689, 1690-1694, 1695-1699, 1700-1704, 1705-1709, 1710-1714, 1715-1719, 1720-1724, 1725-1729, 1730-1734, 1735-1739, 1740-1744, 1745-1749, 1750-1754, 1755-1759, 1760-1764, 1765-1769, 1770-1774, 1775-1779, 1780-1784, 1785-1789, 1790-1794, 1795-1799, 1800-1804, 1805-1809, 1810-1814, 1815-1819, 1820-1824, 1825-1829, 1830-1834, 1835-1839, 1840-1844, 1845-1849, 1850-1854, 1855-1859, 1860-1864, 1865-1869, 1870-1874, 1875-1879, 1880-1884, 1885-1889, 1890-1894, 1895-1899, 1900-1904, 1905-1909, 1910-1914, 1915-1919, 1920-1924, 1925-1929, 1930-1934, 1935-1939, 1940-1944, 1945-1949, 1950-1954, 1955-1959, 1960-1964, 1965-1969, 1970-1974, 1975-1979, 1980-1984, 1985-1989, 1990-1994, 1995-1999, 2000-2004, 2005-2009, 2010-2014, 2015-2019, 2020-2024, 2025-2029, 2030-2034, 2035-2039, 2040-2044, 2045-2049, 2050-2054, 2055-2059, 2060-2064, 2065-2069, 2070-2074, 2075-2079, 2080-2084, 2085-2089, 2090-2094, 2095-2099, 2100-2104, 2105-2109, 2110-2114, 2115-2119, 2120-2124, 2125-2129, 2130-2134, 2135-2139, 2140-2144, 2145-2149, 2150-2154, 2155-2159, 2160-2164, 2165-2169, 2170-2174, 2175-2179, 2180-2184, 2185-2189, 2190-2194, 2195-2199, 2200-2204, 2205-2209, 2210-2214, 2215-2219, 2220-2224, 2225-2229, 2230-2234, 2235-2239, 2240-2244, 2245-2249, 2250-2254, 2255-2259, 2260-2264, 2265-2269, 2270-2274, 2275-2279, 2280-2284, 2285-2289, 2290-2294, 2295-2299, 2300-2304, 2305-2309, 2310-2314, 2315-2319, 2320-23

Car Buyer's Guide

Motoring by Clifford Webb

Suzuki makes impressive supermini debut

Suzuki has been making so called "micro" cars for almost 30 years. The bulk are sold in the Japanese home market where they fit very nicely into the company's much bigger motorcycle business. But sweeping changes are under way which will put increasing emphasis on the cars side.

The first outward sign of the new strategy is the one-litre SA310, the company's first full-sized family car. It is still only in the supermini class, dominated here by Austin Rover's Metro and Ford's Fiesta, but it is as far ahead of the present 800cc Suzuki Alto, as the Alto was of the original Suzulight two stroke 360cc "micro".

The new car will arrive here in about two months and should sell for a little under £4,000. That is about the going rate for its class. It could have been so much cheaper if Suzuki GB, the Heron group company which imports Suzuki cars, had not decided to make up for its restricted sales under the 11 per cent voluntary ceiling on Japan's share of the British market by opting for the most expensive version.

It comes complete with a full digital dashboard, which I found to be less appealing than the very clear old-fashioned dials in the cheaper version I drove recently in Spain.

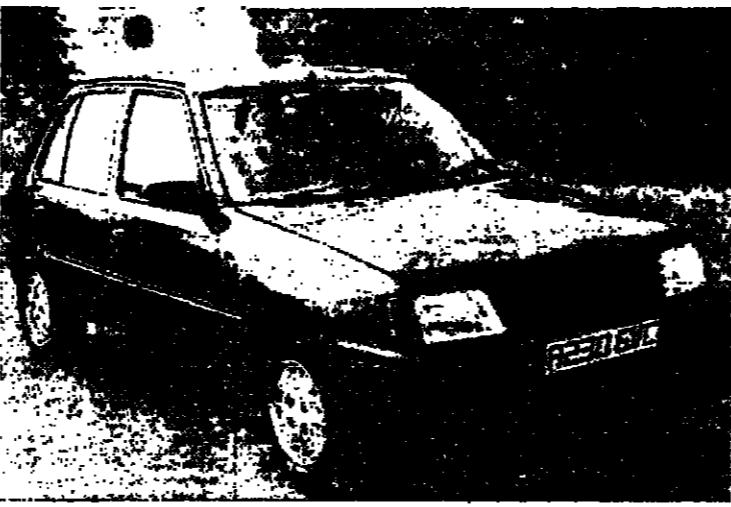
The car itself bears witness to General Motors involvement. The American giant owns 5 per cent of Suzuki and is planning to import large numbers of SA310s. The front is typically Japanese with its bug-eyed look but the rest of the body shows some family resemblance to GM's own small car, the Nova. It provides marginally adequate accommodation for four adults as long as the front passengers do not hog too much of the restricted legroom.

The brand new, 993cc, three-cylinder, overhead camshaft engine is the lightest around, weighing only 138 lbs. It achieves that with extensive use of aluminium and even has hollow-ground crankshafts. Driving the front wheels through a sweetly operated five-speed gearbox, it is easily the most impressive feature of the new car.

Readers familiar with the Spanish coast around Marbella will know the testing road up a mountain-pass to the little town of Ronda. It is becoming popular with car companies eager to demonstrate that their latest offering can take any punishment thrown at it.

In a one-litre car like the SA310

the frequent gear changes required to push it close to its limits quickly show up any engine roughness or



The Peugeot 205GR; vigorous performance

poorly chosen gear ratios. The Suzuki scored well on all those counts and was unusually quiet. It has a claimed top speed of 90mph and a 0-60mph time of 15 seconds.

But the ride and roadholding are not in the same street as the engine. The problem is the somewhat agricultural one-piece rear axle and simple leaf springs. It is safe enough because it gives plenty of warning of a rear end breakaway by hopping sideways before settling into a skid. The solid rear axle is also the prime cause of a poor choppy ride.

High tyre pressures requested by the Japanese engineers to cope with pass-storming British journalists was offered as an excuse for the choppy ride. I have my doubts but look forward to a longer test in this country.

Motorway speeds

Next Wednesday a petition bearing nearly 100,000 signatures will be presented to Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, urging legislation to increase the 70mph speed limit on our motorways. The petition forms were compiled by readers of Motor Sport, and Motoring News. Michael Cotton, managing editor of Motor Sport, says the present limit is widely ignored and enforced only on a random basis, making it a bad law. He suggests an advisory speed limit for different sections of motorway as on the legally "unlimited" German autobahns.

Regular motorway users know that the average speed in the a 1255cc diesel in the 205 but a

pressing timetable and the need for further development persuaded it to compromise and use a modified 1.8 litre version of the well regarded 1.9 litre unit already used in the Peugeot 305 and Talbot Horizon. It was a compromise which succeeded beyond the company's wildest dreams.

It has become increasingly acceptable in recent years to use a big lightly stressed engine pulling a bigger car to achieve improved fuel economy without losing the flexibility so necessary if the car is to retain drivability. But the biggest stumbling block is the additional weight and its effect on the car's balance, a critical factor in ride and handling.

The 1.8 diesel is nearly 20 kilos heavier than Peugeot's 1.3 petrol engine but the extra weight is only noticeable because the smooth surging way it delivers its power induces you to drive it like a souped up GT. Vigorous sawing at the wheel makes you aware of the extra weight over the front wheels.

It is only a marginal inconvenience, however, compared with the 60 miles a gallon I returned in a car which proved so lively and enjoyable that I frequently forgot it was a diesel. Starting was child's play even after very cold nights in the open, thanks to the now universally used pre-heater sparkplugs.

I only require a few seconds' delay before turning the starting key. Then it bursts into life with the familiar diesel clatter which many drivers still find offputting but that disappears completely when under way. And it performs so vigorously that passengers need reassuring that it is indeed a diesel.

At £1,345 the five-speed GRD costs only £400 more than the 1.3 litre petrol engined GR. The four-speed GLD is an even better buy at £1,475; Peugeot says it has a similar top speed and fuel consumption to the five-speeder but is slightly slower on acceleration.

Diesel winner

The Peugeot 205 diesel is just what the doctor ordered for those sceptics who still refuse to accept that the diesel-powered car is not ready to challenge half a century of petrol supremacy. The technology, engineering and production know-how are there. All that is needed is a coordinated campaign by the industry to clean up the diesel's image and win acceptance by more motorists.

The 205 is now firmly established as the French group's very competitive contender in the supermini battle with 954cc, 1124cc and 1360cc petrol engines. But it was designed from the outset to take a diesel. The trouble is also making some very significant improvements in the state of the diesel art with Vera, its experimental fuel-saving project.

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Anger over blocking of EEC rebate

Continued from page 1
this before December 31, although he might agree to a delay until the end of next month if the council asks him to negotiate further on the terms.

As far as the Council is concerned, the budget is illegal for at least four reasons. Mr Adonis Georgiadis, the Greek Minister currently chairing the budget council, said after the vote that there were political and legal problems ahead.

The political one was the result of blocking the British rebate; the legal one, derived from the way in which Parliament had unilaterally increased its powers over part of the budget and had reclassified some categories of spending in a way which the council believed was wrong.

Member states will have to decide in the next couple of weeks whether or not to take the parliament to court. If they fail to do so Britain could still go head on its own, but such a process would be very long and would be difficult for the case to get anywhere before the arch deadline.

Yesterday's Commons exchanges were at one point reduced to a match of resounding with Mr Kinnock accusing Mrs Thatcher of "huffing and puffing" and the Prime Minister replying that she could not compete with the Labour leader in that score.

Foreign Office reaction: The Foreign Office said in a statement: "We deplore this discriminatory action by the European Parliament. It runs completely counter to the parliament's own resolution in October not to discriminate against any member state."

The Parliament brings discredit on itself by taking action against two member states for the failure of the Community as a whole to reach agreement at them, particularly since we have been pressing for many of the reforms which the Parliament itself called for in the draft resolution. To freeze Britain's refund by putting it into reserve chapter 100 will not help to resolve the Community's problems.

"Such actions by Parliament will only make an already difficult situation even worse, and will risk distracting attention from the management negotiations which should be given first priority over the next few months."

Carson junior takes a tumble



Tony Carson on Brockley Belle and, seconds later, on the ground as father looks on.



Tony Carson on Brockley Belle and, seconds later, on the ground as father looks on.



Tony Carson on Brockley Belle and, seconds later, on the ground as father looks on.

Willie Carson, the champion jockey with more than 2,000 wins to his credit, watched proudly yesterday as his son set off in his first public race at Haydock Park racecourse.

Seconds later, his pride changed to disappointment as Tony Carson, aged 20, fell badly at the second fence, in the Beeches Farm Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle.

He crashed to the ground and lay

grimacing with pain for several minutes before he was put on a stretcher and taken away in the course ambulance.

His father, who had been watching from the stands, went to comfort his son at St Helen's general hospital, where he was treated for severe bruising and later discharged.

The fall is the second piece of bad luck for Tony Carson. He should have

had his first ride five weeks ago at Hereford, but the horse he was to have ridden was held up in traffic and failed to arrive in time to register.

His disappointed father said yesterday: "I was mentally upsides with Tony during the race."

Dr F. Lennon, the course medical officer, added: "Tony is in some pain, but in good spirits. It is nothing terrible." The fall was also seen by Tony's mother, Carol.

Battleship bombards Lebanese militias

Continued from page 1
the United States with its fighting spirit".

● LONDON: Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, took the unusual step of telephoning Mr Walid Jumblatt, leader of the Druze militia, to protest about artillery fire which landed near the British headquarters (Rodney Cowen writes).

He said on BBC radio that he had been at 10 Downing Street with the Prime Minister on Wednesday when the news came through.

Mr Heseltine said Mr Jumblatt had assured him "that he would do everything possible to ensure the safety of our people".

● ATHENS: Greece announced that, after obtaining adequate assurances of safe passage, it had authorized five ships to sail for Tripoli today to evacuate the 4,000 Palestinians loyal to Mr Yassir Arafat trapped there (Mario Modiano writes).

Gemayel in London and journalists under US fire, page 7

Frank Johnson in the Commons

The Princess of wails

Mr Donald Dixon, the Labour member for Jarrow, contemptuously inquired of the Prime Minister yesterday whether she recalled her speech at Swansea three years ago when she advised the unemployed "to be mobile".

Mrs Thatcher replied to the effect that the employment situation was improving in Swansea. By his demeanour as she was speaking, it was apparent that Mr Dixon was dissatisfied with this reply on the ground that his constituency was Jarrow, not Swansea. But she was not to know that Mr Dixon, a man who places little emphasis on mere charm, looked as if he could be the member for Swansea or Jarrow or indeed most other places.

Perhaps she might have had second thoughts had she originally been under the impression that he was the member for Frinton-on-Sea or the Dean of Peterhouse or chaplain to the Queen Mother. But, despite his protests, or perhaps she could not hear them above the usual question time hubbub, she persisted in regarding him as the member for Swansea.

"There has been an enterprise zone created in Swansea which is one of the successful enterprise zones," she intoned. "Jarrow, Jarrow," Mr Dixon protested "... to draw more industry into the area," continued the Prime Minister, wisely adhering to her first assessment that she was dealing with a man from Swindon.

"Whatever the Chief Whip did I am absolutely sure it was absolutely right", she replied, with a surprising lightness of touch and a smile.

Mr Dixon fidgeted and waved his order paper in dismay. Perhaps his dismay was caused by the sheer injustice of a social system which regards the problems of Jarrow as being best solved by new enterprise zones in Swansea.

"Swansea has been one area which has been successful in getting inward investment for this country because we are a member of the European Community," she obviously continued. Above all, she was no doubt confident that there would be no need for another Swansea Hunger March.

Mr Dixon would not have been justified in regarding the Prime Minister's reply as inappropriate. For in that speech at Swansea three years ago she did advise the unemployed to be more mobile. She was perhaps

assuming that some of them had now reached Swansea. So Mrs Thatcher resumed her seat, having answered the question to her own satisfaction.

Mr Dixon continued to look disapproving. But it is misunderstandings such as these which make British Prime Minister's questions the envy of the world. On the other hand, it was possible that she knew all along that Mr Dixon came from Jarrow, but had decided to proceed on the assumption that he came from Swindon.

This sort of thing happens all the time in the plays of Harold Pinter. A similar situation arises in *Brideshead Revisited* when Charles Ryder's father, throughout dinner, treats Charles' friend as an American even though he is perfectly well aware that the friend is as English as Charles or himself. For an unexpected element of whimsy was entering into Mrs Thatcher yesterday.

A Liberal, Mr Malcolm Bruce, protested that the Government Chief Whip and other Government whips had gone into a division lobby in the previous night to haul out Tory MPs who were in danger of dividing the wrong way in a complicated plot to vote a Social Democrat off some new select committee on defence.

"Whatever the Chief Whip did I am absolutely sure it was absolutely right", he replied, with a surprising lightness of touch and a smile.

Whereupon, Dr David Owen embarked on an immense intervention which took up several minutes of question time. Mr Dennis Skinner, the Labour Member for Bolsover, heckled him.

There is a disease for which there is no known cure", Dr Owen observed, "and that is what the hon member for Bolsover suffers from: verbal diarrhoea".

Dr Owen went on. He accused Mrs Thatcher of grave abuse, and of making a joke. "I know we are getting close to Christmas", observed the Speaker, in connexion with nothing in particular, except Christmas. Mrs Thatcher denied everything. Good temper was not restored until the House got onto the subject of glue sniffing. Dr Owen walked out. Mr Skinner left in search of a second opinion.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Music
Piano recital by Richard Simon, St David's Hall, Cardiff, 1.10
Christmas concert by the Choir of Bangor Cathedral, Great Hall, Amherst Castle, Bangor, Gwynedd, 7.30

Handel's Messiah, by City of Birmingham Choir, Town Hall, Birmingham, 7

Halle Orchestra Concert, Royal Concert Hall, Theatre Square, Nottingham, 7.30

Carol Services

County Council Christmas Service, St. Ann's Church, Manchester, 11

Festival of Carols, by Morriston Tabernacle Choir, with audience participation, St. David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30

General

The Tyneside Cinema celebrates 20 years of Dr Who: the Brain of Morbius Doctor Tom Baker, the Tyneside Cinema, 10/12 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, 6.30

French prints and drawing, Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (ends Dec 4)

The Nude - Approaches Through Drawing, Herbert Art Gallery, Jordan Well, Caversham, Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Jan 22)

Contrasting approach to landscape in watercolour and oil by Fylde Artists Dale Berry and William Smedley, Lancaster City Museum, Market Square, Lancaster, Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (ends Dec 23)

Fishing Snacks, a Kent County Museum Service travelling exhibition, Tunbridge Wells Art Gallery, Tunbridge Wells, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 9.30 to 5, closed Sun (ends Dec 31)

Recent landscapes by Gerald Gadd, Geoffrey Hulbert, Martineau, Frances Cripton and Merv Williams, Flora and fauna, Art Gallery 45, 1546 Bridge Street, Harrogate, Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, closed Sun (ends Dec 24)

Alot root vegetables remain good buys, particularly carrots. Best carrots are smaller than normal, ranging 24p to 34p a lb. Red cabbage is 17p to 30p a lb and is good with roast or game. All citrus fruits are good value, particularly new season Spanish Navalina oranges at 20p each.

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